Hold off attacks in Mindanao, GMA orders military

Story on PAGE A2

Carabao English? No problem with Yanks

OKI NGA RUD...BASTA'T UNDERSTOOD

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—No spokening dollars? No problem.

Filipino soldiers taking classroom training here from their American

CARABAO/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Blaze hits Megamall

MALLERS rushed out the exits when a fire broke out at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City at around 7:30 p.m. last night but nobody was reported hurt.

Authorities said the blaze, which started at the kitchen of the Singing Cooks and Waiters restaurant on the fourth level of Building A, was put out some 30 minutes later with the quick response of firemen from different fire districts. Witnesses said the fire was preceded by an explosion and thick smoke engulfed not only the fourth level but the other levels as well. *Nelson F. Flores*

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, February 28, 2003 ★★ 92 pages / 11 sections / vol. 18 / no. 82 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'Worst fear has come'

Toppling of key power tower leaves Mindanao in darkness

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—Unidentified men bombed a key power transmission tower in this city late Wednesday, plunging about 90 percent of Mindanao—home to 18 million Filipinos—into darkness.

By 3:20 p.m. yesterday, electricity had been restored to most of the island, but power supply remained fitful as of press time.

A series of explosions at around 11:25 p.m. on Wednesday toppled Tower No. 5 in Barangay Buenavista, Abaga, this city, National Power Corp. officials said. It was the 18th power pylon attacked in the last two weeks.

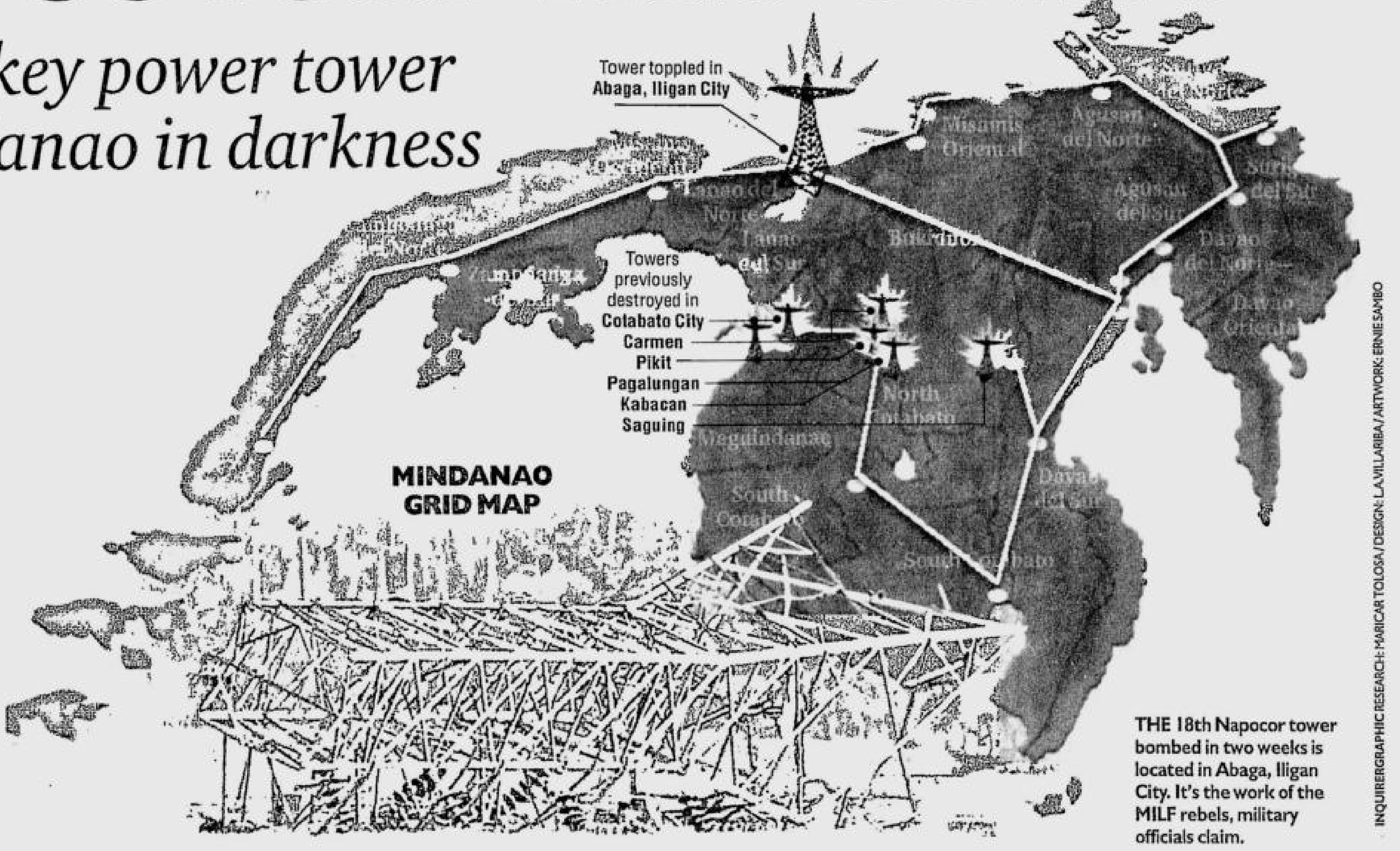
"There was a loud explosion," Napocor spokesperson Rufino Magbanua told reporters. "My worst fear has come."

The military said no one was hurt but residents living about 5 km from the tower reported hearing "earth-shaking blasts."

National Transmission Corp. officials said the bombing destroyed a transmission line linking two power substations. It was the only remaining power link between the northeast and southeast of Mindanao, following the bombings of the other towers.

Affected areas include the cities of Cotabato, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, General Santos, Kidapawan, Pagadian, Dipolog, Oroquieta, Ozamiz, Zamboanga and Tangub and the provinces of Bukidnon, South Cotabato, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Misamis Occidental and Oriental, the two Agusan provinces, Suri-

WORST/ A20



THE 18th Napocor tower bombed in two weeks is located in Abaga, Iligan City. It's the work of the MILF rebels, military officials claim.

INQUIRERGRAPHIC RESEARCH: MARICAR TOLOSA / DESIGN: L.A. VILLARIBA / ARTWORK: ERNIE SAMBO

Don't cling to past, Moro leader tells Tausugs

By Noralyn Mustafa
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—A Muslim leader yesterday called upon the Tausug people not to cling to the past, amid overwhelming opposition here to the planned deployment of US combat troops because of a hundred-year-old massacre perpetrated by the Americans.

Speaking over local radio, Assistant Local Governments Secretary Abraham Iribani even cited verses from the Koran to press his case.

In Manila, two members of the so-called Magnificent 12 senators who voted against the US bases treaty in 1991 blasted the Macapagal administration, even as former US Ambassador Frank Wisner said the Philippines was doing the right thing in enlisting the support of US forces to fight the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

In Malacañang, Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Yusop Jikiri of Sulu told a meeting of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security chaired by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo that the Sulu people had "deep-seated sentiments against US troops."

DON'T/ A20

127 million Filipinos by 2050—UN

THE POPULATION of the Philippines will increase to 108.58 million in 2025 and to 126.96 million in 2050, according to the revised forecast of the United Nations Population Division. The country's population stood at 75.1 million in 2000.

While its population will grow, those of 33 other countries will drop. The UN Population Division forecasts that the population will fall in 43 countries, headed by Russia (from 145.6 million to 101.4 million), Japan (127.0 million to 109.8 million) and Italy (57.5 million to 44.9 million).

For the first time, the population is projected to decline in four African countries which are particularly affected by the AIDS epidemic. The number of South Africans is forecast to fall from 44.0 million to 40.2 million, with similar percent-

127 MILLION/ A19

RP to appeal wage cut of maids in HK

THE GOVERNMENT will appeal the decision of Hong Kong to cut by HK$400 (about US$51) the minimum wage of foreign domestic workers.

"It is our understanding that the government, through the Department of Labor and Employment, will exert its best efforts to appeal the case of the domestic helpers," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Hong Kong's No. 2 official, Chief Secretary for Administration Donald Tsang, announced the minimum wage reduction for maids on Wednesday, saying it would be effective for employment contracts signed April 1 and thereafter.

RP/ A6

NOT WAR
NO TO WAR

RELENTLESS protests against a US strike on Iraq continue to ignite the cityscape. This one's by PUP students in Sta. Mesa.

ERIK ARAZAS

1M calls jam US gov't lines in 'virtual march' vs war

WASHINGTON—More than one million calls have jammed US government lines as anti-war activists, including a battalion of Hollywood stars, traded marching shoes for phones, fax machines and computers to wage an information-age form of protest against the planned US war on Iraq.

"The outpouring of support for tough inspections to disarm Saddam Hussein, and against an invasion and occupation of Iraq got through loud and clear," said Tom Andrews, national director of Win Without War, a coalition of 32 mainstream groups that sponsored the "Virtual March on Washington."

The protest kicked off early Wednesday morning when about 400,000 volunteers started calling the White House and lawmakers' offices to express outrage over US plans to attack Iraq even without formal UN approval. They also sent written petitions over fax lines, making it difficult for Washington bureaucrats to conduct everyday business.

As a result, the White House switchboard was jammed for hours, as were the phone lines of many lawmakers, particularly those who voted last October to support a congressional resolution authorizing US President George W. Bush

1M CALLS/ A18

Blix boosts Bush case for war

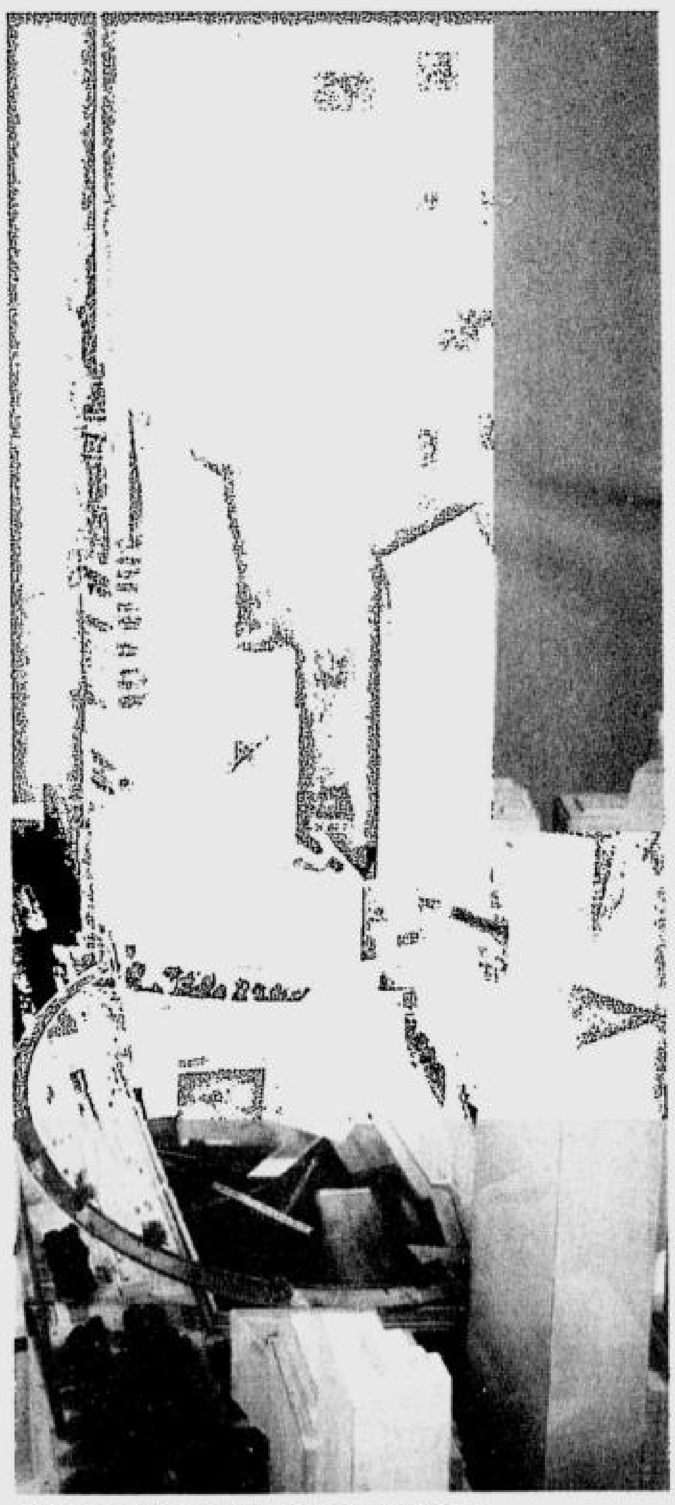
UNITED NATIONS—Chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix on Wednesday boosted the Bush administration's case for waging war on Iraq by saying bluntly that Baghdad still had not made a "fundamental decision" to disarm.

Hours later, US President George W. Bush said toppling Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would not only protect America but also sow the seeds of democracy and peace in the Middle East.

But Saddam said in an interview televised by a US network that his country was preparing to defend itself vigorously against a US-led attack.

The statements of Blix, Bush and Saddam came ahead of a Thursday debate by a divided Security Council on a US draft resolution authorizing war against Iraq. Britain and Spain have endorsed the resolution.

BLIX/ A18



REPLACING THE IRREPLACEABLE
Winning design for the rebuilding of New York's World Trade Center by renowned German architect Daniel Libeskind consists of angular buildings housing offices rising 70 stories, a "Gardens of the World" and a towering spire. *(Story on page A15)*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers mostly over the Eastern sections.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/26/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Hold off attacks, GMA orders military

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY will be on the defensive despite the provocative attacks of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said yesterday.

Malacañang continued to downplay MILF chair Salamat Hashim's call on his followers to take up arms against the government, which had set off a new wave of fighting in Central and Western Mindanao.

"The stance of the Armed Forces is just to hold defensive positions... and just be alert against any possible attack by the other side," Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye expressed the belief that despite the renewed hostilities, the MILF had not totally spurned the peace process.

He said MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghadzali Jaafar had denied that Salamat issued the call to arms.

"It is our understanding that this alleged statement of Salamat Hashim is also not true," Bunye said. "It is our understanding that the interest to resume the peace talks is still there, but that the other side would like... Malaysia to act as go-between."

Bunye showed reporters a copy of the supposed "memorandum of instructions" from the President dated Feb. 11 ordering Salamat's capture dead or alive.

He said the spurious document was being circulated in Mindanao through fax.

"It's very difficult to pinpoint the source of this document," he said. "But obviously it emanated from a group that doesn't want peace between the MILF and the government."

Bunye said the Palace would no longer try to find out who was behind the so-called disinformation plot. He said it was enough that Malacañang had disclaimed it.

When told that the document could have been leaked by the Palace itself, he chuckled and said: "No comment."

In Pikit, North Cotabato, the House committee on national defense yesterday launched a fact-finding mission to determine who initiated the hostilities.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, committee chair, told reporters in Pikit that the result of the mission would be useful for a House investigation next month to determine who violated the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF.

Military officials have repeatedly said the Pikit crisis was triggered by the massive MILF buildup in the Liguasan Marsh. They said the buildup was aimed at a bigger offensive.

But the MILF said the military fired the first shot by assaulting rebel positions in Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat in North Catabato.

In Manila, Sen. Robert Barbers urged Salamat to reconsider his supposed call to arms.

But Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said it was Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes who "started this useless provocation."

Pimentel said the Senate would defer approval of the defense department's budget until Reyes appears at the budget deliberations. *With reports from Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila*

7 rebels killed in Pampanga

SEVEN New People's Army rebels, one of them a woman, were killed in an encounter with soldiers past 4 p.m. Thursday in Sta. Ana town, Pampanga.

Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza, 7th Infantry Division commander, said troopers from the 69th Infantry Brigade seized seven high-powered guns, mostly M-16 rifles, from the insurgents.

The clash at Barangay San Agustin reached a stalemate after 6 p.m. after about 15 rebels took cover in a chapel that was filled with children, police in the area said.

Local residents could not tell if the rebels had taken the children hostage. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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GMA knew of plan to lower drug prices–Dayrit

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit said yesterday the President knew of his efforts to secure the help of local drug manufacturers and distributors in bringing down the prices of medicine.

In a telephone interview, Dayrit said the idea of selling cheap India-made medicines—as promoted by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas—was not sufficient to bring down drug prices.

"We are now trying to identify high quality generics and we are talking to manufacturers and retailers to help us move these low-price medicines into the commercial outlets. This is also upon the instruction of the President," Dayrit told the INQUIRER.

Dayrit was reacting to a news report yesterday that said Roxas had complained of the DOH's tack in pursuing the President's "Presyong Tama, Gamit Pampamilya" program.

Roxas had told a House oversight committee hearing Wednesday that Dayrit had met with officials of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines, which is against importing cheap drugs from India.

But Dayrit said the meeting was intended to "widen [patient] access to other [medical] products, which the local industry is able to provide, also at low cost."

"We are trying to provide low-cost generics and the government is supporting that," he said. *Armand Nocum and Gil Cabacungan*

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Carabao English? No problem …

From page A1

counterparts are having difficulty with communication.

But Cpl. Rabee Rubios is consoled by the fact that his trainers do not meet his "broken English" with derision.

"Hindi ako pinagtatawanan ng mga Amerikano. Hindi katulad ng kapwa Pilipino, nagtatawa (The Americans don't laugh at me, unlike other Filipinos who do)," he said.

Rubios, of the Charlie Company under the Basilan-based 10th Infantry Battalion, also said the Americans would "slow down" when told that they were talking too fast.

Sgt. Rey Aguila, of the 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team's 35th Marine Company, also admitted to a "shortage of English."

Speaking in Filipino, he said: "It's difficult to always speak in English. I run short of my 'stock.' Sometimes I can't understand some of their words."

Aguila is one of 40 non-commissioned officers training under the US Green Berets.

The sessions—which include lessons on close-quarter battle, survival techniques and medical evacuation—will last for six weeks, according to Col. Horacio Lactao, the Philippine military's assistant director for education and training.

Aguila has been with the Philippine Marines Corps for 19 years. He has been deployed to Cotabato, Basilan, Jolo, Tawi-tawi and certain parts of Luzon, but this is "the first time we get these subjects in the training course," he said.

Rubios, a Philippine Army soldier for 13 years, gives more weight and appreciation to the human rights education provided by the American trainers.

"We learned that we cannot just finish off a wounded enemy. Instead, we have to save them, give them first aid and evacuate them [from the battleground]," he said.

In this way, the enemy will realize that it is better to surrender than die fighting, he added.

Nevertheless, Rubios is eager to learn how to use sophisticated war gear.

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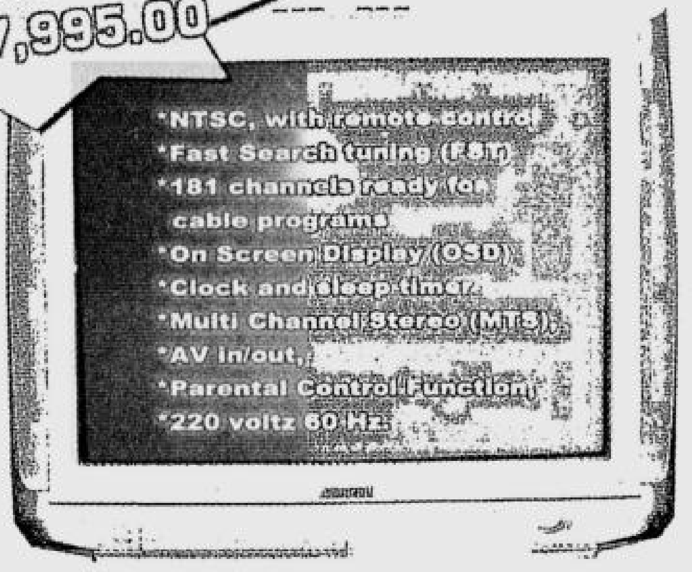
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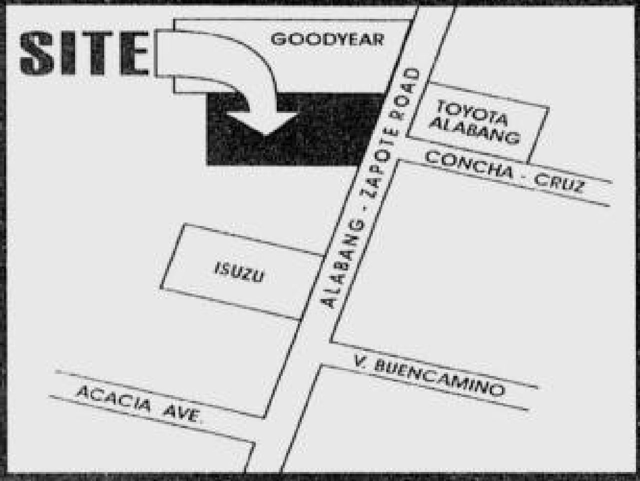

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I greet the officers and members of VisionBank, Incorporated on its *Inauguration.*

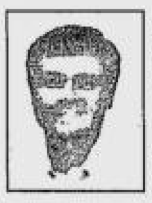
The banking system has continuously been a potent force in shaping the nation. Similarly, microfinance is an emerging trend in poverty alleviation and has been recognized worldwide as an effective tool to fight poverty. Microfinance with a regulated framework leads us to a sustainable financial system with a heart for the poor.

Our Administration recognizes the importance of a robust banking sector in sustaining our economic growth. We look upon a strong banking sector to help Philippine businesses rise above current economic difficulties and win for our people the rewards of globalization.

I wish for the success of this event that indicates your strong commitment to uplift the lives of the people in the rural communities and promote countryside development. Delivering quality and innovative banking services to our countrymen in the countryside in the most effective way by which this noble objective can be achieved.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Catanduanes Agricultural Support Programme (CatAg), its staff, clientele, partner agencies and local government units for a job well done!

Your unfailing commitment and dedication in achieving your mission and goals to alleviate poverty, provide livelihood and employment, transform rural areas into vibrant and progressive communities, and empower small farmers, fishers and rural folk in Catanduanes is indeed laudable.

Among your many accomplishments, the establishment of *VisionBank*– the first microfinance oriented rural bank in the country approved by the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* - is a significant milestone.

Likewise, in partnership with the LGUs and other agencies, **CatAg** has successfully assisted in the formation of viable micro enterprises implemented by farmers, fishers and ruralfolk, transforming them into self-reliant entrepreneurs.

In all, **CatAg** thus serves as model for other agricultural programs geared at enhancing the development of rural communities and helping our poor and underprivileged countrymen improve their economic status.

Finally, I wish to thank the European Union for its generous support in the realization of this worthy agricultural support program.

Mabuhay kayong lahat !

LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

The story continues to unfold…

Five years ago, a vision was born.

It was a dream that every poor Catandunganon shall have access to financial services that no bank would ever dare offer.

It was a challenge that the Catanduanes Agricultural Support Program (CatAg), a nine-year program, took. Implemented by the Department of Agriculture and funded by the Government of the Philippines and the European Union, CatAg was convinced that with appropriate support, the very poor can become entrepreneurs, save and repay their loans.

Through time, efforts were consolidated at all levels to set up a sustainable institution, creating an apex structure for all the network of Savings and Loans Systems (SLSs) all over the island.

Five years after, the realization of a dream…

In 2000, the Agricultural and Rural Development for Catanduanes, Incorporated (ARDCI), a non-government organization, has taken over the microfinance component of CatAg. It has today, an outreach of about 14,500 clients in the entire province of Catanduanes and an outstanding portfolio of P72 million. It has generated a total of P25 million savings from the very people whom the financial institutions label as non-bankable and high risks.

ARDCI's Board of Trustees, drawn from its membership base, is the policy-making body of the institution. Empowerment, to the truest sense of the word.

The VisionBank, Incorporated, the first microfinance-oriented rural bank in the country, owned by ARDCI, is the ultimate expression of CatAg's vision.

On October 8, 2002, it opened its doors to the public as the first bank in the country whose major stakeholders are farmers, fisherfolks and women.

In five years' time, CatAg/ARDCI has disbursed some P500 million of loans not only to support the productive activities of members but also to help them improve their housing conditions as well as their access to education and health services.

Five years from now…

The vision shall remain unchanged. ARDCI and VisionBank commit to reduce poverty incidence in the Bicol Region by reaching out to about 200,000 households.

It is with much pleasure that I greet the officers and staff of the VisionBank, Inc. on its inauguration as a microfinance-oriented rural bank.

Its successful transformation from an NGO-operated credit facility to an institution that is now part of the formal banking system further affirms our belief that our entrepreneurial poor are indeed good credit risks. Its years of involvement in microfinance paid off as the institution grew and developed financial strength together with its ever-expanding customer base.

As the first institution to respond to our efforts to encourage banking institutions to venture into microfinance under BSP Circular 273, VisionBank is a vital showcase. Its success should encourage many more institutions to provide microfinance services to our rural entrepreneurs—our domestic investors who generate employment and foster economic growth at the countryside.

I hope therefore that the men and women of VisionBank will constantly improve their services to their constituents, as microfinance is truly a powerful tool for improving the quality of life in rural communities.

Again my congratulations to VisionBank and to all those who support its mission.

RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA
Governor
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

I convey my warmest greetings and felicitations to the people of Catanduanes for the setting up of VisionBank, the first rural microfinance bank registered with the Central Bank of the Philippines.

You have been able to build an institution that is both truly democratic and highly performing, in terms of providing financial services to the people of Catanduanes and in terms of financial sustainability.

As a consequence, the microfinance scheme has been critical in improving the living conditions among the poor households of this island, while ensuring the empowerment of the 14,000 members who own and manage the scheme.

The European Commission is proud to have contributed to the success of the scheme, through its support to the CatAg Programme, which is implemented by the Department of Agriculture.

May you remain committed to your mission and expand your services to other areas, to have a decisive impact on poverty alleviation in the Region and in the Country.

Greetings and congratulations!

Jan de Kok
Ambassador
Head of Delegation
Delegation of the European Commission in the Philippines

VisionBank, Inc. is the rural financial institution envisioned by the Catanduanes Agricultural Support Programme (CatAg), a project implemented by the Department of Agriculture and funded by the Government of the Philippines (GOP) and the European Union (EU).

GMA no pariah, Palace tells PDI

MALACAÑANG took exception to yesterday's Philippine Daily Inquirer editorial which said President Macapagal-Arroyo remained a pariah before the Non-Aligned Movement despite a shift in her staunchly pro-US stance to hew more closely to the NAM line of restraint in the US-Iraq confrontation.

The editorial had noted that while the President softened her tough pro-US stand, she had done so to avoid "being out of step with the anti-war majority sentiment at NAM, where the United States came under scathing attack."

"We strongly disagree with the editorial," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye at his regular briefing yesterday.

"What really took place (at the NAM summit) was that the President, far from being isolated, was warmly welcomed by the delegates," he said.

To prove his point, he gave reporters photocopies of two Malaysian dailies that had carried pictures of Ms Macapagal with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.

Bunye also pointed out that the President was elected a vice chair of the conference and she presided over the afternoon session.

"The reception was genuinely warm," he said. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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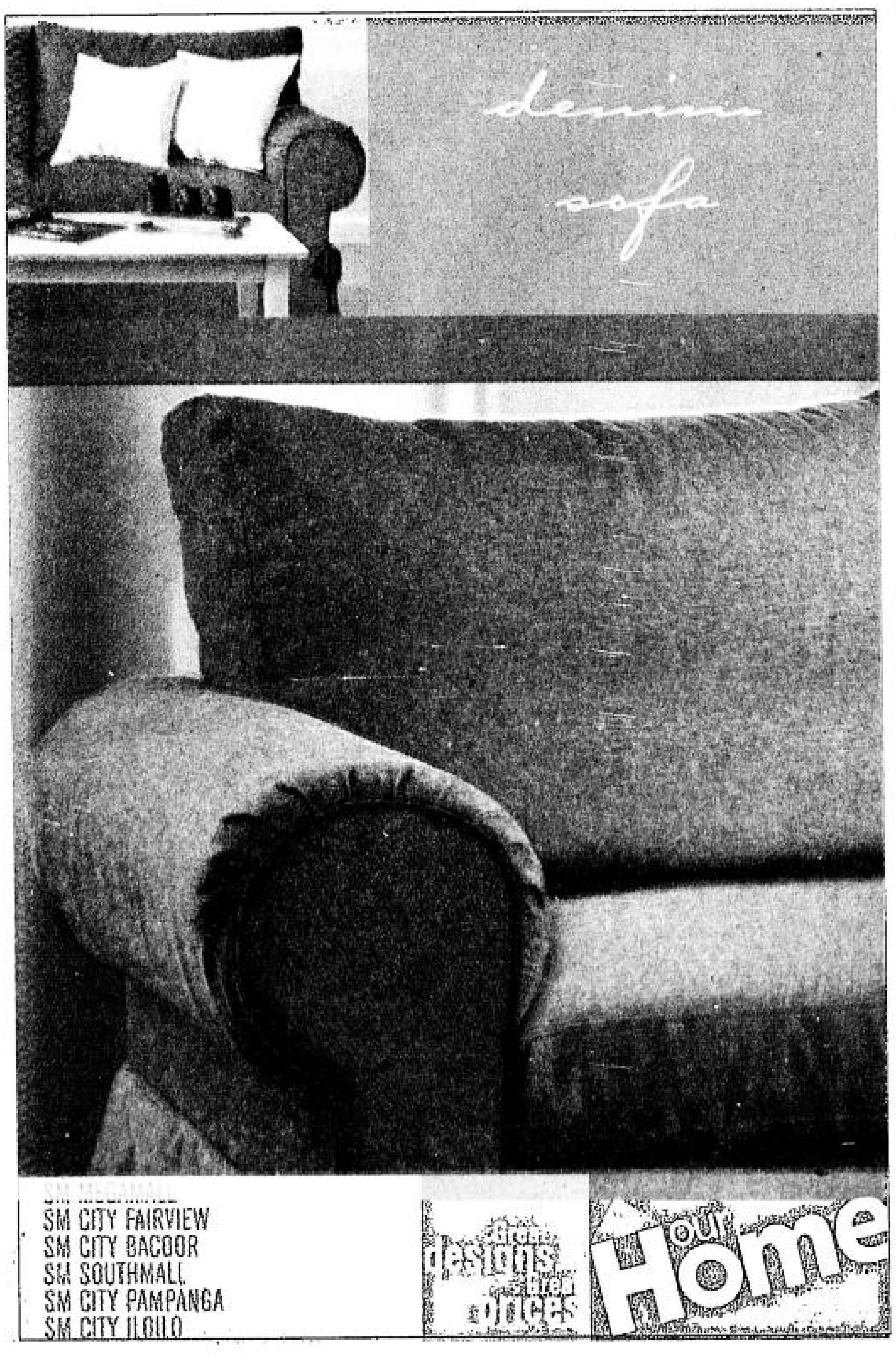

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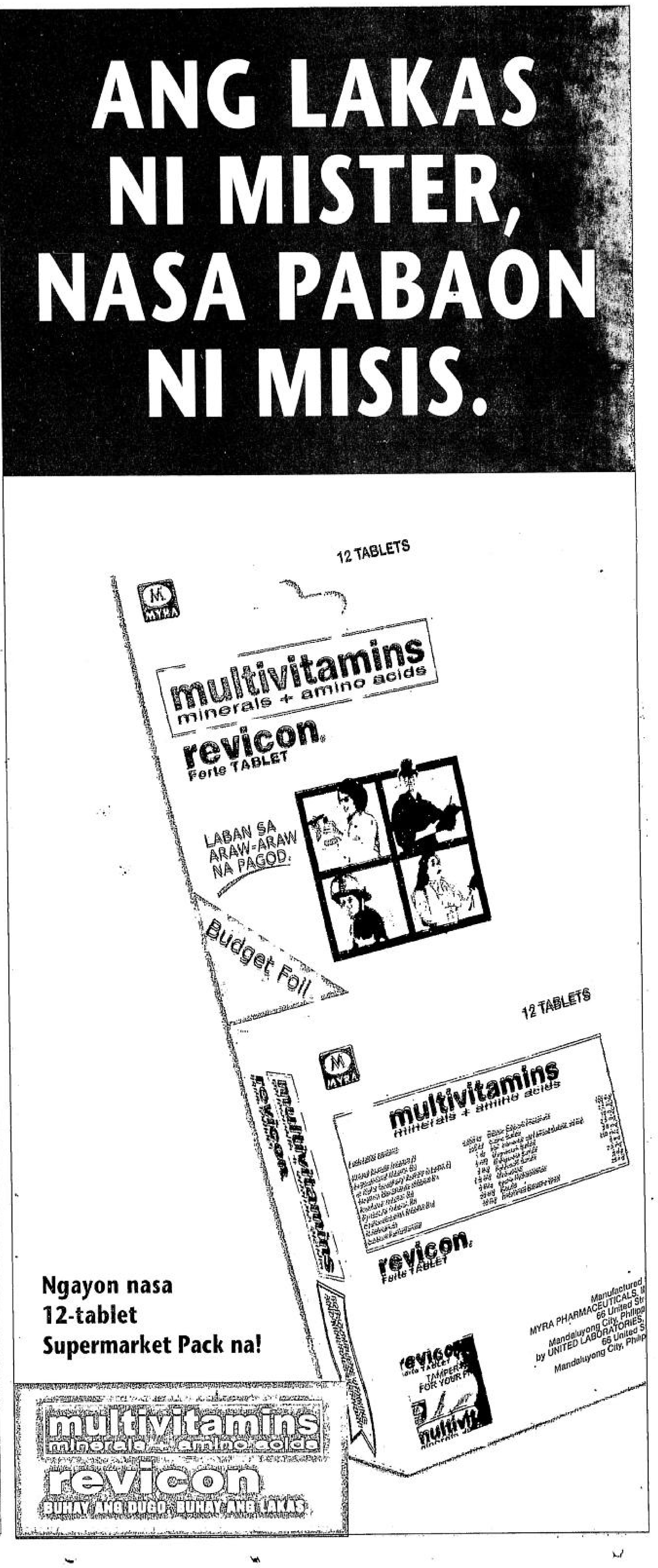

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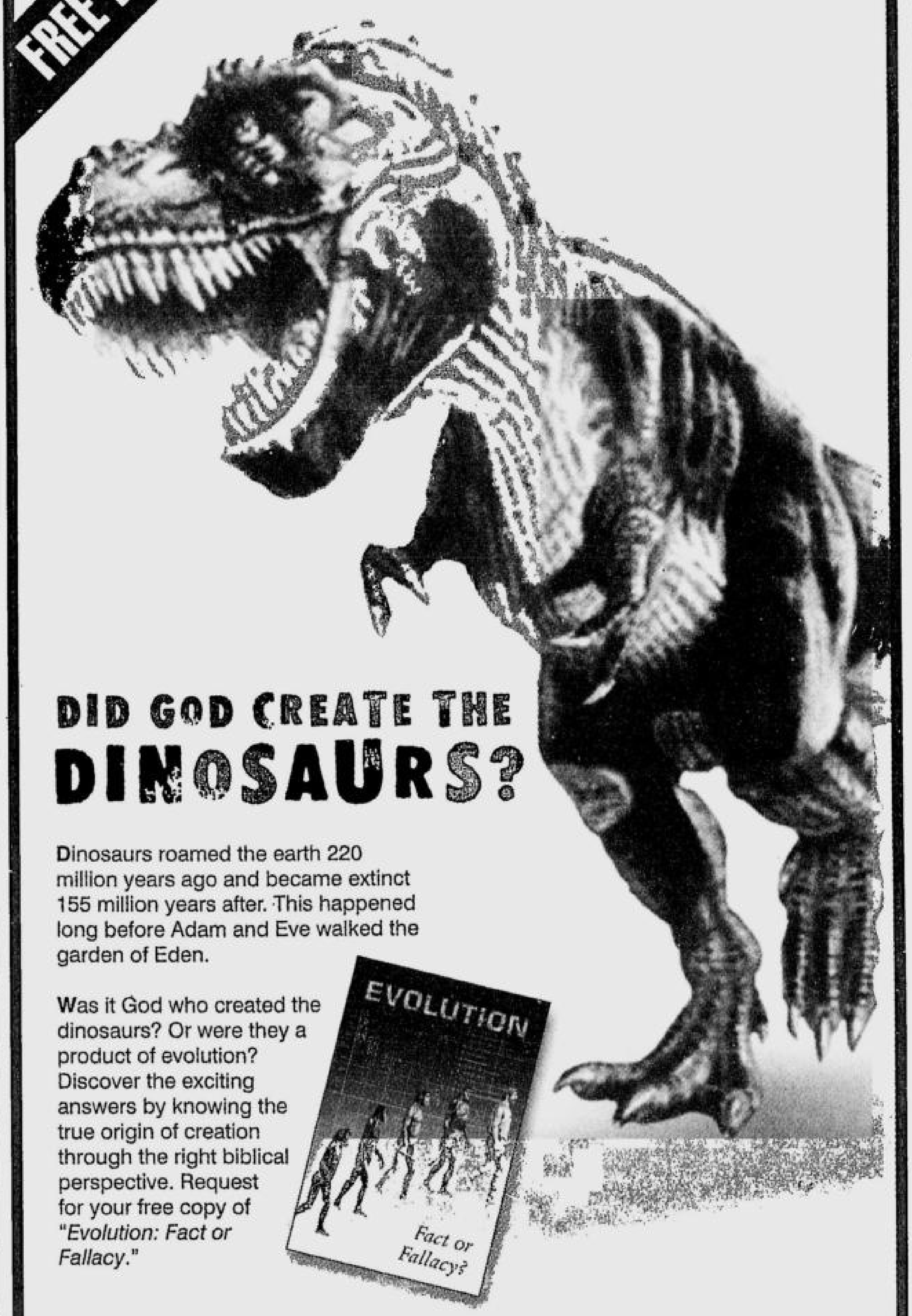

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RP to appeal wage cut …

From page A1

Some 153,000 of Hong Kong's nearly 240,000 maids are Filipinos, while others come from Indonesia, Thailand and Nepal.

The new levy will be paid by employers from October, but maids will effectively be paying it out of their own pockets as their minimum wage will be cut to HK$3,270 a month starting April.

The proposed levy comes after the territory announced a planned 6-percent pay cut for its 180,000 civil servants last week to be spread over two years and a cut of 11.1 percent in welfare payments to the unemployed, the elderly, the disabled and the mentally ill as part of an effort to stem the spiraling budget deficit.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said he was assured by Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa that the existing contracts of 150,000 Filipino domestic helpers in the territory would not be affected by the wage cut.

"There is no salary cut on existing contracts," said De Venecia, who met with Tung for two hours on Wednesday together with Philippine Consul General Victoria Batacan. The wage cut, he said, would only apply to new workers with contracts effective April 1.

Deferment

De Venecia appealed for an "indefinite deferment" of the wage cut for new workers saying it would coincide with the possible US-led military action against Iraq expected in April.

"The timing of the wage cut is bad," De Venecia said after his overnight trip to Hong Kong.

In the Senate, Senate President Franklin Drilon filed a resolution expressing the chamber's disappointment with the imposition of the HK$400 levy on foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

Drilon said that under Hong Kong's salary tax schedule, a Hong Kong resident must have a monthly income of HK$9,000 if single, or HK$18,000 if married, to be liable for a tax.

A foreign domestic helper in Hong Kong earns only about HK$3,670 a month, and yet she will be required to pay the same amount of tax as a Hong Kong junior executive who earns more than seven times her salary, according to Drilon.

"This tax is inequitable as it will be imposed only on domestic helpers while other service givers will not be similarly taxed," Drilon said.

Tsang defended the wage cut, saying that an imported labor levy for other low-skilled and semi-skilled workers had existed for many years, although employers of foreign maids had been exempt until now.

But with unemployment of 7.2 percent, and a surplus of 36,000 maids expected in the next two years "the government will have to put in a lot more resources to train our workers in more skilled jobs. Therefore I have decided to expand the scheme of levying," he said.

Job training

Tsang said the levy would raise HK$1.4 billion, which would be used to fund job training program for local workers who would otherwise end up on welfare.

Because of the wage cut, the Philippine government is considering putting on hold deployment of Filipino maids to Hong Kong.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration board would be convened next week to discuss "other options" available to overseas Filipino workers.

Another proposal would be for the government to approve only contracts that provide the pre-existing minimum wage for foreign domestics. *Reports from Carlito Pablo, Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera and AFP*

Jimenez makes bail

"I AM free!" Rep. Mark Jimenez told Rep. Willie Villarama over the phone soon after he was released on $500,000 bail by a Miami, Florida court the other day.

Jimenez, who is facing charges of fraud, tax evasion and making illegal campaign contributions in the United States, was fitted with an electronic bracelet, however, to ensure that he would not leave the Miami area.

Jimenez called Villarama from the house of his daughter Claire in Miami, where he is staying for the duration of his trial in the district court of South Florida.

Jimenez phoned his family first after his release from detention.

"He's okay, he's in good spirits, just checking on the family, asking if everyone's okay," said Marcel Crespo, Jimenez's son in Manila.

Jimenez was released on bail after US immigration officials agreed to drop their hold on him in the absence of his passport, which by chance turned up the same day, according to The Associated Press.

Jimenez was jailed for two months since he surrendered to US marshals in the Philippines to face a 1999 indictment. *Juliet L. Javellana, with AP*

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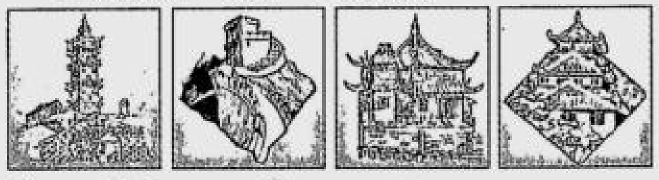

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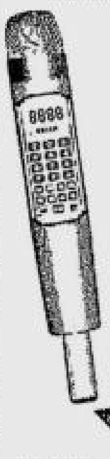

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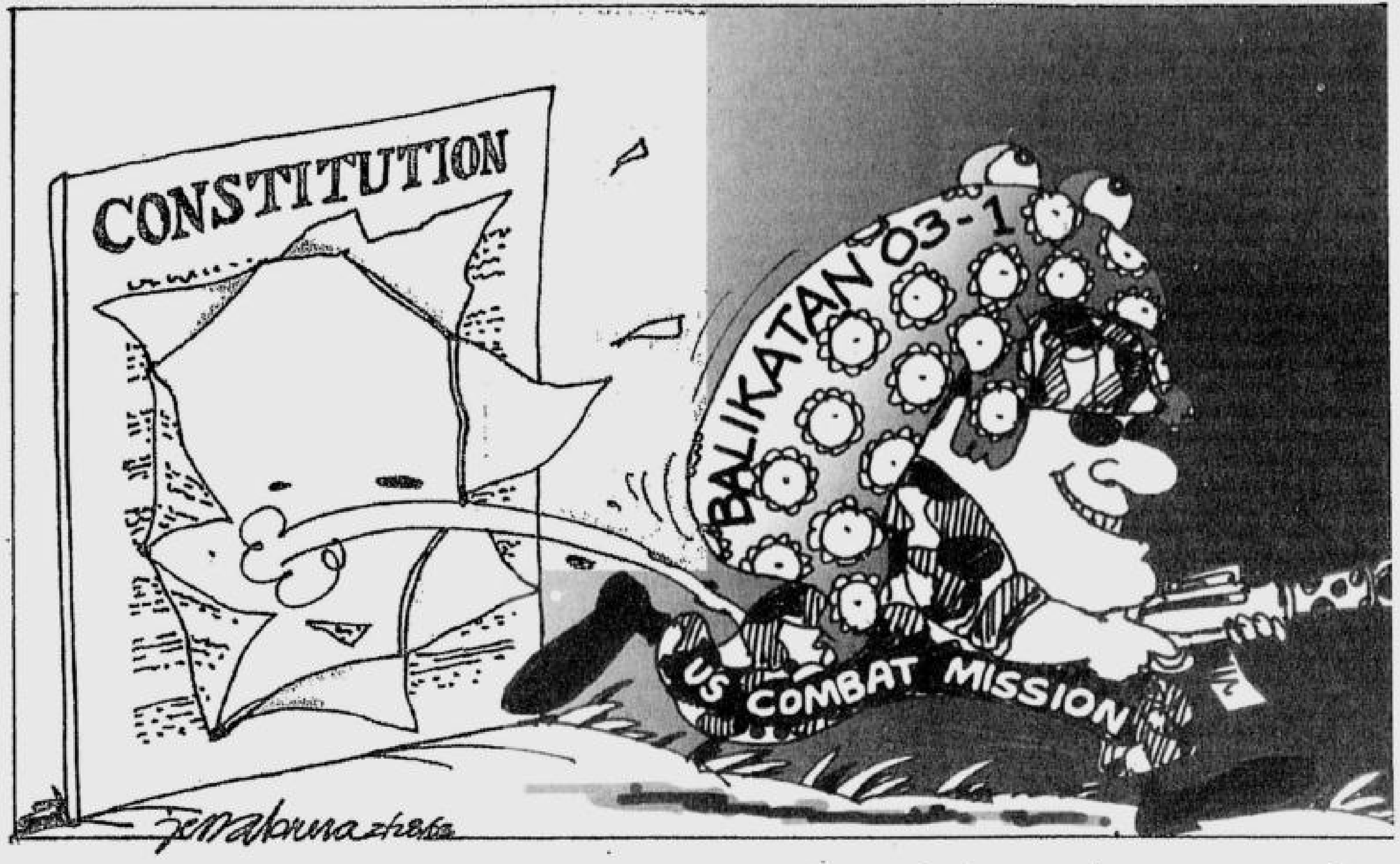


Clear parameters

EDITORIAL

FOR A WHILE there, it looked as if there would be no end to the transoceanic debate between Philippine government officials and some unnamed Pentagon officials over the exact role of American troops in the second Balikatan joint military exercises to be held soon in Sulu.

Pentagon officials got the debate going by leaking to some major US media organizations the information that some 1,700 US troops would join Philippine forces in fighting the Abu Sayyaf. Their mission would be "to disrupt and defeat the Abu Sayyaf." One official told CNN the operation would be different from the Balikatan training exercises held in Basilan last year. "This is an actual combined operation (with) US forces accompanying and actively participating in Philippine-led offensive operations," the unnamed official was quoted as saying. "This will be a no-holds-barred effort." CNN went on to report that 350 US Special Forces would take part in the Sulu offensive supported by 400 more troops based in Zamboanga. In addition, about 1,000 Marines aboard US Navy ships would be waiting off the coast of Sulu, ready to respond on short notice.

The New York Times published a similar report and added that negotiations about the joint offensive had been going on for months. It even quoted a Pentagon official that they had to make the information about the new mission public because Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had "mischaracterized the scope of an operation that had already been agreed upon."

Bunye and other administration officials have repeatedly denied that any combat role was being planned for US forces. Another case of *"kuryente"* was how he called the reports aired by CNN and published by two of the most prestigious US publications. "The bottom line here is that there will be no aggressive combat role," Bunye said over the weekend. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that anything US officials say "that contravenes the Constitution and the laws will not materialize." Bunye dismissed the US media reports as the handiwork of "a minor Pentagon official who...makes it appear that he knows everything."

The administration's problem, however, is that the reports were so detailed and specific as to make the repeated denials of its spokesmen ring hollow. Even harder to believe is that a minor Pentagon official would take it upon himself to reveal such plans, complete with such details as the number of troops, without the go-ahead of his superiors. It is simply not the way things are done in the military.

So what happened here? It is possible that the reports were a trial balloon to determine the reaction of the Filipino public. But more likely the New York Times had it right: President Macapagal-Arroyo and US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld agreed upon a joint offensive, following a series of Abu Sayyaf attacks late last year. And then they realized that there was no way to go around the constitutional obstacle to sending US troops into actual combat.

Now US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone has come out to say that the United States would not violate Philippine laws. American troops would only come as "invited allies, working under your law, your rules and your commanders' lead," he said. "We will not come as alien invaders."

He should have made those parameters clear to the Pentagon before any misunderstanding developed. That is, of course, assuming that there really was some misunderstanding among top officials speaking the same language.

Widening rift

FOREIGN COMMENT

THOSE who thought that the massive demonstrations against war plans by the United States would have an effect on US President George W. Bush were disappointed. Instead, American politicians and media have criticized with increasing irony and arrogance those who don't adopt their line, particularly their European friends.

This means that the rift between Europe and the United States is widening at the same time as an attack against Iraq draws ever closer. The fact that hundreds of thousands of Americans—with a long line of luminaries at the front—also condemned the war hasn't made the Americans more favorably disposed toward Europe.

In the United States one often seeks to find an answer to the question: Why can't the naive Bush critics understand that we must get rid of (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein? In Europe, instead, one hears the basic question: Why can't the United States understand that the victims and the risks involved in an attack are too great?

Recently, we have seen Bush, Powell, Rumsfeld and Rice present the same case in different ways. In other words; war approaches whatever Europe, the United Nations or the demonstrators say.

Hufvudstadsbladet (Helsinki, Finland)

A non-violent way to rid Sulu of the Abu Sayyaf

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE is an easier, less objectionable, non-violent, safer, more economical and more helpful way to rid Sulu of Abu Sayyaf bandits. We will still need the help of the US government but not the Green Berets. Nor any soldiers, for that matter. With soldiers, somebody's bound to be killed or hurt. And when American soldiers get killed, the folks back home will protest even more than they are doing now. And when Filipinos, bandit or civilian, get killed by the Americans, the protests here will be even worse. Under my proposal, nobody will get killed, everybody will be happy—and prosperous.

According to estimates, there are only about 50 Abu Sayyaf bandits left. There are more bandits within the Philippine government than in the jungles of Sulu. Do you know how much the Philippine and US governments will spend just to go after 50 Abu Sayyaf bandits? Hundreds of millions of pesos, just to pay for the ammunition, gasoline for the helicopters, tanks, boats, planes, the food of the soldiers, medicine for those who get sick or wounded, their salaries and other logistics. Worse, there is the risk of soldiers and civilians getting hit by bullets and shells coming from the other side, and their ending up either in coffins or in hospitals.

The bandits, as the bleeding hearts like to say, kidnap people because of poverty. They have neither jobs nor money, so they resort to kidnapping, which is a very easy and quick way to raise plenty of money.

But what if they are no longer poor? What if they already have plenty of money? It goes without saying that they will stop kidnapping. Why risk being chased by soldiers all over the jungles when you don't need the ransom money anymore?

With plenty of money in their hands, the bandits will buy fast motorboats, motorcycles, jeepneys, karaoke sets, build new houses, maybe get several wives. Naturally, they will want to enjoy their new acquisitions. They will want to go joyriding, sing to their heart's content, and make love to their wives in their new houses. That leaves them no more time for mischief, *'di ba*? So my proposal is this, (it's so simple, I don't understand why nobody thought of it before, why the US-financed Agile group, if it is so smart, never thought of it).

Why not pay each Abu Sayyaf bandit ransom even before he kidnaps anybody? Isn't this the "tried and tested method" popularized by the police and Rep. Jules Ledesma?

If the US government gives each bandit $100,000 that makes him an instant millionaire five times over. That's equivalent to P5.4 million. A prudent bandit can live on the interest alone if he invests it in treasury bills and not in the pyramid companies.

$100,000 per bandit times 50 bandits totals only $5 million, peanuts compared to what the United States will spend for the Green Berets and their equipment and logistics if they were to chase the bandits in the Sulu jungles. And nobody need get hurt.

If that doesn't convince the bandits, throw in as sweetener an immigrant visa to the United States for each Abu Sayyaf member. You know *naman* how Filipinos will do anything to get a US visa.

So with all the Abu Sayyaf members living with their millions in the United States with the much coveted green card, there will be no more Abu Sayyaf in Sulu. Who knows, they may even become outstanding and loyal US citizens because they would no longer be poor and don't have to resort to banditry anymore.

Isn't this a better strategy than the kill-or-be-killed plan the two governments are cooking up?

* * *

Muslims in the whole of Mindanao are against the presence of Americans on their islands. What they don't realize is that this could be a blessing in disguise. As we have seen, any place run like hell by Filipinos becomes like heaven when Americans come and develop it. Look at Clark and Subic. Had not the Americans made them their bases for many years, it would have been a rotting squatters' paradise by now like Metro Manila and so many other places in the Philippines. But because of the Americans, they are two of the crown jewels of the Philippines. Was it not the Americans who built the shipping port and airport of Cotabato? That area is now the best developed place in Mindanao. But look at the places where no American ever set foot. They are as poor as ever. And that is where poverty and banditry are rampant.

Imagine a Sulu archipelago—with its white sand beaches, swaying coconut palms, private desert islands, turquoise waters and colorful coral reefs—developed with American money. With hotels, resorts and an international airport it could be another Hawaiian or Caribbean group of islands that Western tourists dream of. No amount of talk by Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon can estimate the possibilities.

Imagine a Basilan island developed into another Singapore. Basilan is bigger than the whole of Singapore. With enough money—which only the Americans have—it can be turned into another Singapore. Why, it can be the center of Mindanao. To think that it used to be the stamping ground of Abu Sayyaf bandits.

And what if American capital and developers are let loose on the lahar wasteland of Pampanga. From the sandy wastes will rise another jewel, the Las Vegas of Asia. Las Vegas, after all, was nothing but sandy wasteland before the Americans transformed it into the gambling capital of the world. And to land in the Guinness Book of World Records, I propose that a part of lahar land be turned into the only golf course in the world that is all sandtrap. Pockets of grassy greens can then be planted, instead of the other way around with green grass and trees all over the course and only pockets of sandtraps.

So don't resist the coming of the Americans. You don't really know a good thing when you see it.

'Spoliarium'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A HIGH point of Fides Cuyugan-Asensio's and Ryan Cayabyab's opera, "Spoliarium," which I saw last Friday, came shortly before it started. That was when GSIS boss Winston Garcia addressed the audience. He made two mistakes. The first was that he delivered a long speech. Unlike the Filipino expatriates in Barcelona, the crowd that congregated in CCP did not like speeches. They did not brave the traffic just to listen to them.

Garcia's second sin was even bigger. He spoke of how the GSIS, unwilling to let a Luna painting remain outside the country, or, heaven forbid, fall into greasy palms, heroically used taxpayers' money, money due impoverished government workers in benefits, to acquire "Parisian Life." In rich brushstrokes, not unlike Luna's but lacking their flair and discipline, Garcia dwelt at length on how an intrepid band of GSIS speculators won the day for Philippine honor at Sotheby's.

The results of Garcia's dramatic peroration was not quite what he expected. It sparked a sudden dryness of the throats of his listeners, which sent them into fits of coughing. At first scattered and muted, but slowly, like operatic music, building to a crescendo. Soon the whole Big Theater was rocked by a paroxysm of loud and unrestrained lung-clearing—and much laughter.

Nanding Josef saved the day by being the next speaker. He said he had only one thing to say, and that was, "Enjoy the show." The audience erupted into wild cheers.

As to enjoying the show, well, I did in some parts but not in others. The direction was excellent. Alex Cortez has grown artistically by leaps and bounds and gives the production a sense of precision and dynamism. His last two directorial jobs that I've seen are musicals, as demanding a task as any director could hope for, or dread, and he has shown great flair in both. Before "Spoliarium," he directed Bienvenido Lumbera's and Lucien Letaba's "Hibik at Himagsik nina Victoria Laktaw" at the UP Arts and Sciences Theater. Whether he's working with a small stage with spare, even stark, sets, or a big one with lush, even opulent, sets, Cortez seems equally at home.

"Spoliarium's" set is lush, even opulent. That is among the most impressive things about it. It is a work of art in itself, a visual feast that does full justice to the opera's subject, who is the greatest painter this country has ever known. Its capacity to zoom out to unravel vast and wide halls, where you half-expect voices to echo in laughter, and to zoom in to peep into small claustrophobic bedrooms, where you half-expect voices to choke in tears, is breathtaking. It is helped in no small way by the lighting, which does not lapse into melodramatic excesses but is restrained and nuanced.

The singers, ah, but they are magnificent. And proves yet again that this country is truly blessed with the gift of song. Indeed, with immensely talented individuals who can sing and act with equal ease. Who knows? Maybe who can do circus acts as well, I wouldn't be surprised. Robert Seña is magnificent, like all true gifted artists making the arduous look easy. One can imagine how much hard work and discipline went into developing that voice, one that, as my friend, Celina, marvels, can slip through a couple of scales unnoticed. He plays Luna, and does a wonderful job of it. As does Margarita Gomez, who plays Luna's wife, Paz, whom he murders in jealous rage. Her voice transports and makes you forget the mundane fetters of appearances.

Unfortunately, it's in the heart of it that the opera seems weakest—the music and the libretto. Cayabyab's music soars in parts, but not so consistently. And it's hard to catch its overriding theme, or leitmotif. I do not particularly mind that the work is opera in the sense of Webber and not in the sense of Puccini—a complaint I heard from purists in the lobby during the breaks—but it doesn't quite climb to great heights within that genre. I read an article by Cayabyab in the INQUIRER last Saturday where he puts out his philosophy in composing music for musicals, which is to be more "utilitarian," to advance the story rather than draw attention to the music itself. An admirable idea, but you can be memorable and have exceptionally heart-rending moments while advancing a story at the same time. "Evita" and "Phantom of the Opera" show so.

The libretto on the other hand reduces Luna's life and love to a closet drama. Of course the Puccini and Verdi operas are not themselves known for their dramatic brilliance, being filled with melodramatic conventions, but I would imagine Luna offers a rare opportunity to explore the joys and travails, the high and low, of being Filipino. My problem with "Hibik" was that it yielded more historical or social insight than psychological or personal ones. My problem with "Spoliarium" is the opposite: It yields more psychological or personal insight than historical or social ones.

A pity because it does suggest a number of these grand themes in the first act. In the gathering of the Filipino expatriates in Spain to celebrate Luna's triumph with the Spoliarium (Rizal sings a wonderful song about life being meaningless without love of country), in the social divide between the *indio* Luna and the *ilustrado* Pardo de Taveras, in the tension, or contradiction, between social demands and personal justice, one that would have tremendous implications in Luna later being acquitted by the Parisian courts for the murder of his wife. None of these is developed in the course of the work.

Still and all, its creators have to be commended for putting yet another stone in the foundation of the edifice known as the Filipino musical. Do see it, and make your judgment.

My own is: "Spoliarium" is okay. But it's not exactly, well, Spoliarium.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Media in the province

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

CAGAYAN DE ORO—The Manila-based media cannot be complacent that they call the shots in public opinion formation in the provinces. Long neglected by the capital city media, the press in this city is starting a quiet counter-revolution from the bottom to lift its professional and ethical standards.

At a workshop here sponsored by the Cagayan de Oro Press Club on Tuesday, I was amazed to see the seriousness in which the local journalists examined the problems of media credibility, competence and corruption. More surprising is the fact that the workshop was the occasion to launch at least five volumes of training manuals to upgrade professional skills prepared by the locals, most of them part-time journalists.

I read their code of ethics and, after comparing it with the code of ethics of the National Press Club, the NPC code could not have done better than the COPC code. Manila-based journalists could not have added anything to it.

I examined their training manuals consisting of 10 modules. The modules were so comprehensive that they might as well have been prepared by the UP School of Mass Communication or the big Manila newspapers and media organizations. The modules consisted, among others, of basic information technology skills for journalists, values and ethics in journalism, journalism skills, principles of law and media, investigative reporting, environmental reporting, the interdependence between business, political and economic systems, and mentoring skills for journalists.

We don't have this kind of training manuals in the INQUIRER and I have not yet seen any set of manuals prepared by schools of mass communication in Manila to match that produced by the COPC. And yet, the manuals were prepared over one year by journalists working after hours and into late in the evening. The manuals deserve to be published for wider circulation, especially among Manila-based media which I believe can learn a lot from their country cousins.

For example, there are modules instructing journalists, both in print and in radio-TV, how to conduct interviews. In the Manila media, especially in talk shows on TV, the main concern of the media host is to confirm his pre-conceived points of view. This approach accounts for the fact that the questions of interviewers are lengthy, convoluted and take more time than the answers. The purpose of an interview anywhere is to ask questions that will draw out information not known before from the person interviewed and elicit explanations of complex issues. The manual says that interviews should be snappy, flowing and the hosts should not think that the interview is engaging in a debate where they must win over the person interviewed. It is not the purpose of the interview to impress upon the public what the interviewer knows—and this is a disease that afflicts many talk show interviews.

There are instructions in the manuals about how a news story is to be written, the use of simple words, and things that are taught, but not quite learned, in Journalism 101.

The COPC project was funded by the Philippines Australian Governance Facility, an aid organization whose accent is capacity building. The money spent on this program is well spent. It is not wasted on short-term projects with dubious results and on NGOs which spend 85 percent of their grants from foreign donors on administration expenses.

I would strongly recommend that these modules be published into books, and for large media organizations, including the INQUIRER, to get copies to augment their on-the-job training of their staff.

What impressed me further is the fact that the project was undertaken in the midst of circumstances that would have killed it at the start. First, the members of the COPC worked over time to produce the manuals despite the squabbling and rivalry of competing local newspapers and radio-TV stations. The squabbling has become so bitter that staff of competing stations were reported to have drawn guns. The squabbles were carried out on the air, creating perceptions of irresponsibility and credibility problems. Secondly, provincial media people have low incomes. Thirdly, provincial media operate on thin financing and inadequate advertising support, making them susceptible to political and business pressures. The marvel is that the COPC was able to produce a considerable piece of work that will enhance its members' professionalism.

The modules have been adopted by media training programs of the Xavier University. From the discussions during the workshop, media problems boiled down to two issues—corruption in media and lack of professionalism. I thought, after reading the conference material, that the local journalists' concerns accented ethical questions. I was relieved to find out that equal emphasis was laid on both ethics and developing journalistic skills and professionalism.

One theme raised the issue: "Is media part of the problem or part of the solution?" In considering this issue, the context is that the media are part of the society and the culture they are reporting and commenting about. Their reports draw a mosaic of society, but what the workshop, in which officials and also civil society people participated was expecting, was that media have also to get out of this culture and lead the way. We learn from experience that when journalists have a high degree of professionalism, they also tend to have integrity.

The workshop sought to "encourage a proper understanding of the role of media in public accountability. They wish to encourage an attitude to media that puts truth and the public good above private interest and newspaper distribution numbers and ratings." The last line was a jab at the ratings war in TV and sensational journalism.

Despite their disadvantages, local media are doing things for themselves to raise the level of their professionalism. Manila media have nothing to do with this. But the provincial press has shown it has the capacity to produce results. The Australian aid is directed at the right approach—capacity building.

Lack of political will obstacle in Bali bombing probe

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dean Yates

JAKARTA—Indonesia's chief investigator into the Bali bomb attacks readily admits his police team was poorly equipped to hunt down the killers.

Addressing an audience in the United States last week, Major Gen. Made Mangku Pastika said police even lacked equipment to identify chemicals used in the bomb blasts or the means to track suspects through their handphones.

After months of help from foreign police—and backed by political acceptance that terrorism was a threat to the world's most populous Muslim nation—Indonesia's police now possess more expertise and information about how militants operate.

But what worries security experts and some diplomats is whether Indonesia will use the momentum generated by the Bali investigation's success to cement that political will and institutionalize measures to fight terrorism in the future.

While police have arrested 29 Indonesians over alleged involvement in the blasts that killed 202 people, most of them foreign tourists, the network blamed for the attack, Southeast Asia's militant Muslim Jemaah Islamiah (JI) group, still has the capacity to mount similar operations, security experts say.

"I think the Indonesians feel they have done enough," said Zachary Abuza, a counterterrorism specialist at Simmons College in the United States and an expert on the al Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiah.

"In terms of going beyond the Bali cell and looking at other JI cells or links between JI cells and other militant groups in the country, I don't think they have that will right now, and they are not going to before the election." Campaigning for presidential elections next year is already under way and incumbent leader Megawati Sukarnoputri remains vulnerable to attacks from conservative Muslim politicians because of her secular-nationalist roots.

The kind of overt international pressure that bore down on Indonesia following the Oct. 12 Bali blasts, should it go much beyond the Bali investigation, could also inflame prickly nationalist sentiment in the run-up to the poll.

Jakarta was criticized for not doing enough to fight terrorism prior to the Bali bombings, although it had always insisted it was committed to the US-led war on terror.

Indonesia's Foreign Ministry dismissed fears the government would lose the political will or become complacent after Bali.

"There has not been any let-up in the Indonesian authorities' concern about the threat of terrorism. If anything, Bali has given the police and the authorities that sustainable momentum to fight terrorism," spokesperson Marty Natalegawa said.

Earlier this month US President George W. Bush telephoned Megawati to thank her for Jakarta's counterterrorism cooperation.

Working closely with Australian police in particular over Bali, Indonesian officers have learned much about tracking cell phone numbers, analyzing computers and tracing money flows.

They will get more help next month when four US experts arrive to provide specialized training to police for a counterterrorism unit that is being set up.

One of Indonesia's biggest practical obstacles to fighting terrorism before the Bali attacks was coordination among police, the national intelligence agency BIN and the military.

Not only is coordination still a problem, experts say the success of the police investigation and the accolades heaped on the force have probably increased resentment among the other agencies, especially with money starting to flow to the police.

"I don't know how that will play out but I know there is intense competition for resources," said Sidney Jones, Indonesia director of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

National police spokesperson Basyir Ahmad Barmawi denied the successful investigation had sparked interagency jealousy.

"There are some who maybe say we are not working together. That's not true, we are harmoniously tackling problems," he said.

Jones said coordination within the police itself was probably better, adding they likely had a clearer idea of the breadth of the militant network from the mapping of cell phone numbers.

They also knew to look not just at banks but money changers when it came to financing, while it had become clear parts of Riau and East Kalimantan provinces were important travel routes.

"Whether that's going to significantly enhance prevention without a significant strengthening of police capacity in those areas, I don't know. But I can't believe prevention (to some extent) hasn't been enhanced by this," Jones said.

The overwhelming verdict from security experts and diplomats is that Jemaah Islamiah remains a threat in Indonesia despite key arrests over Bali. One man in custody is Ali Gufron, alias Mukhlas, the alleged operational chief of the shadowy group.

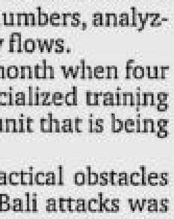
"Bali has certainly affected their operational capability but there are still a number...of operatives moving around in Indonesia and the region," said Rohan Gunaratna, counterterrorism expert and author of "Inside Al-Qaida: Global Network of Terror." "JI still retains the capability of mounting another Bali type of attack," he said, adding that of about 400 trained Jemaah Islamiah operatives, only about 120 were in custody in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Police have said Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, the alleged chief of Jemaah Islamiah, approved the Bali bombings but they have not named him a suspect. *Reuters*

* * *

CORRECTION: Fr. Joey Faller says the Mass every third Saturday at the Buklod ng Pag-Ibig Healing Center is at 9 a.m., not 7 p.m. as earlier mentioned in Rina Jimenez-David's column last Feb. 25.—*Ed.*

More to discover beneath Intramuros



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon has really put a lot of attention and activity back to Intramuros lately. Most impressive are the fireworks set up by an all-Filipino company (I was wrong to think we had nothing beyond *kwitis* and *bawang*) with a catchy name—Putok Pinoy. As a regular visitor to Intramuros over the years, I would walk the ancient walls and streets and try to imagine what the walled city was like before it was destroyed during the Battle for Manila in 1945. Reflecting on everything I have read about the city and its inhabitants over the years, I wonder if we maintain romantic notions about a city that was once built to exclude Filipinos. My students are often fascinated by ghost stories that have surrounded the city over the centuries, but that is not half as intriguing as a story repeatedly told by E. Arsenio Manuel, professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of the Philippines, about secret underground passageways that connected the churches and religious houses with each other. He wrote this story down in 1989 and it is worth rereading today as we revisit Intramuros:

"Sometime in June 1949, a year after rejoining the UP Department of Anthropology as instructor, Professor H. Otley Beyer, then director of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnology, received an American caller in the morning by the name of Victor Lednicky.' Lednicky was an old-time and pre-World War acquaintance, who was laying the foundation in the lot formerly occupied by the San Ignacio Church on Calle Arzobispo. Professor Beyer made me tag along to see the site accidentally struck and discovered by the contractor or builder. The excavation work for the foundation of the new building was stopped for awhile. Professor Beyer and I were conducted to a gaping hole. My boss went down the hole first. It led to a tunnel but he did not go down completely below; the opening was filled partly by loose rubble, soil, stones and bricks. There was enough opening for any person to descend into and, after Professor Beyer was through with his investigation, it was my turn to go down. Then I knew why my boss did not proceed to enter the tunnel. Besides the unstable pile of rubble and small pieces of rocks, the tunnel was partly inundated by water which was about a foot deep.

"The tunnel that was accidentally uncovered by the excavation was neatly and carefully built by man, a fact by which it deserved to be called a passageway. It was built of red brick—the floor, the sides, and the ceiling which was arched. The passageway, I estimated, was possibly over six feet high from floor to ceiling and about four feet wide. As I went in farther from the opening, there were skeletal remains of two individuals on a ledge on my right. These belonged to a child and an adult, the former's lower extremities being within my reach. They must have been laid there a long time ago, the remains of the child having become pulverized in situ and outlining the body distinctly enough. So also with the other individual's bones though fragments—the femur and skull appeared intact. The adult person must have been laid on its right side, the jaw bone had fallen but the teeth were complete except that the third molar had not yet erupted. Though the remains were clearly identifiable, they were no longer retrievable except the femur, skull and jawbone. And though the shelf was narrow, there was enough room to accommodate the bodies originally; the child in a supine position and the adult on its right side.

"I did not see any artifact in the exposed portion of the passageway, nor in the immediate vicinity, even as I lifted the debris from the floor, although this attempt uncovered only a small area in the corridor. I wanted to make some exploration but made little headway because of the presence of water. Besides, I was reminded, whenever entering unexplored caverns of the possible presence of vermin and reptiles; also because of stale air or gases. Just the same, I negotiated more feet of space and, some four or five meters ahead, the tunnel forked. Calculating the passageway to be oriented a little towards the southeast, the forking was to the east or in that general direction; the structure appearing to me built in the same manner and material. In view of the almost knee-deep watery passageway, I could not continue the tour. I turned back and got up on the rubble and rejoined Professor Beyer."

Beyer left the initial exploration to his Filipino assistant and never returned to the site thus, construction resumed and all we now have is Dr. Manuel's memories. Unfortunately, Manuel's original 1949 notes on the tunnel burned with his house in 1974 and I hope his memory 50 years after the event is still sharp. Manuel believes that the tunnel connected the Jesuit San Ignacio Church with the Colegio de Sta. Isabel run by nuns. Was the tunnel built before or after 1889 when the church was built or was it an existing structure? What about the two skeletons in the tunnel? Was this really a secret passageway or was it just a sewer? If only the National Museum and the Intramuros Administration had more funds, then expert archeological excavation will lay all speculations to rest and illuminate dark areas in the long history of Spanish Manila.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

A poor people's political party?

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

ALL is not war and terrorism in the world. In Brazil, a worker's party with strong roots in the Church's Basic Christian Community movement, won the recent presidential election in that vast and fascinating country. Lula, a worker who came to Sao Paolo years ago and lived as a squatter, who sold hotdogs and shined shoes to survive till he got a factory job, is now president. His first campaign is to eliminate hunger. "I will be satisfied if, when I finish my term, there are no more hungry people in Brazil," he said at his inauguration.

People who lament the state of Philippine politics today and search for new approaches may find one in the Worker's Party of Brazil, the party that brought Lula to power. The two countries are so similar visitors from Manila felt perfectly at home there, even if they couldn't speak Portuguese. Both have a rich Catholic culture, a history of brutal civilian and military dictatorships, a rebirth of democracy in the 1980s, armed resistance to dictatorship, huge urban poor areas and a gaping poor-rich income split. We didn't meet one unfriendly person—taxi driver, waiter, hotel persons, policemen in our three weeks there. The samba is much like *ati-atihan* music. The women are also beautiful, and a little more forthcoming in their dress. The people as in the Philippines are basically optimists.

The Worker's Party grew out of the struggle against martial law in the 1970s, so democracy is a core value, not just a theory of the party. It is composed, we were told by academics and people in the *favelas* (slum areas), of three groups: workers and trade unionists; members of the *communidades de base* or Basic Christian Communities, also called Basic Ecclesial Communities in the Philippines (small groups of neighbors who pray and reflect on the Bible together and look for ways to help their neighbor); and intellectuals and activists.

Our informants stressed the essential organizing culture of the Worker's Party is from the *communidades de base*. It is, therefore, more person than ideology-oriented. It is tolerant and permissive of various viewpoints. Its vision for the country rises from the Scriptures as well as from ideology. Homeless people in the *favelas* told us, for example, they have a right to invade empty land because God made the world for all. This opinion reflects the most basic principle of the Church's social teaching, namely, the stewardship of wealth. It was told to us by a group of land invaders that included a Guarani Indian from the Amazon, a Trotskyite and an older *mestiza* woman who said she no longer went to church. Their application of the principle may call for further examination; it is mentioned here to show a people's conviction which grows from what they learned in the *communidades de base*.

They spent weekends in the past discussing the scriptures and Theology of Liberation with theologians. One factor that helped the growth of this view of politics was that many leaders of the Communist Party of Brazil (and other leftist leaders) were in jail in its formative years and not influential. The Worker's Party is pluralistic in belief; it is open and tries to get its members to live in harmony. It is a functioning, well-coordinated party, but there is no official ideology. This seems to be a good model for the Philippines where ideology splinters so many social action efforts.

The Worker's Party was not and is not just for elections. It helps its members wherever they are to organize and improve their lives in the matter of wages, housing, health, education and other matters, including opposing the dope syndicates that threaten democratic life in the *favelas*.

Success came slowly. In 1982 the party got only 2 percent of the votes in the state of Rio Grande de Sur. In 1985 it won two minor elected positions. In 1988, after worsening economic conditions hurt its conservative opponents, it won the state governorship. It experimented in the state and in the state's leading city, Porto Alegre, with measures to help the poor, such as a budget-making process in which the poo along with other groups have a say and a subsidized public transport system. A sociologist who was part of the party's management team in the state told us: "We asked ourselves how will we use the money we have? 'Why not ask the people,' we said. Anyway, we weren't sure what to do." He said there were power struggles in the leadership, ideologica fights and favoritism in taking care of one's own group firs and foremost. It was not all sweetness and light.

Lula was with the party from the beginning. "He is," we were told, "the symbol of the ability of the workers and othe poor people to act independently. Here is a genuine worke leader." The poor are emotionally linked to him and he is fo them, we were told. The people like his style. He cries in public as he did at his inauguration; he breaks protocol. A lawye who said he didn't vote for Lula, said he liked him the minute he saw him cry.

We heard Lula speak before a crowd of 30,000 in Porto Alegre. That day he said he was going to the meeting of the rich in countries in Davos, Switzerland to share with them the point of view of the poor.

We were told Paolo Freire's work has also deeply marked the Worker's Party, that as a result leaders know they should listen and dialogue with the people. Again, the emphasis is on listening and dialogue, rather than a top-down authority.

This may be an overly rosy presentation of Brazil politics but is something like a worker's party or poor people's party possible in the Philippines? Some of the same conditions exist, some do not. There was never a BCC movement here to equal Brazil's in extent or influence. Nor was the thinking of Freire spread here as widely as in Brazil. Still, there have been years of Church-related or Church-friendly work among the poor and many people know the philosophy of Freire who don't recognize his name.

The Philippines has the activists, the problems and the self-defeating politics which Brazil had. A new reform movement cannot begin in a vacuum, however. Is there a consensus here that something is seriously wrong and a new start is needed? Are the overwhelming majority of people ready for change?

Saul Alinsky once said: "A reformation means that masses of our people have reached the point of disillusionment with past ways and values. They don't know what will work, bu they know that the prevailing system is self-defeating, frustrating, hopeless. They won't act for change, but won' strongly oppose those who do. The time is then ripe for revolution."

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

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Should air pollution situation not alarm us?

VISITING my doctor for a medical check-up, I told him that I had a cough that had stayed with me for the last two weeks. My doctor curtly told me that it was not unusual in the polluted metropolis. Then I heard his assistant coughing at the other end of the room. Of course, I was not spared from having my yearly routine X-ray.

If heavy air pollution in the Philippines' four largest metropolitan areas costs the country $400 million a year in terms of health-related expenses, then it is time the so-called associations of tricycle and jeepney owners listen to our cry to stop their polluting the air with hydrocarbon (HC). The smog contributed by motorcycles and jeepneys that cause the haze over Metro Manila is threatening and alarming. Before we end up suffocated with unwanted, unhealthy HC, let us implement the Clean Air Act even if the *masa* will be economically affected. Pollution affects everyone, whether one is the transportation or environment secretary or sons and daughters of the Great Unwashed. While buses compete with jeepneys and tricycles, cancer competes with emphysema for the layaway of greedy, enterprising, conscienceless businessmen.

Next time you cough, remember the Clean Air Act. Next time you cough, remember you are a victim of pollution. Next time you cough, remember your death wish.

—**DR. SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ,**
Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila

Getting tit for tat, at last

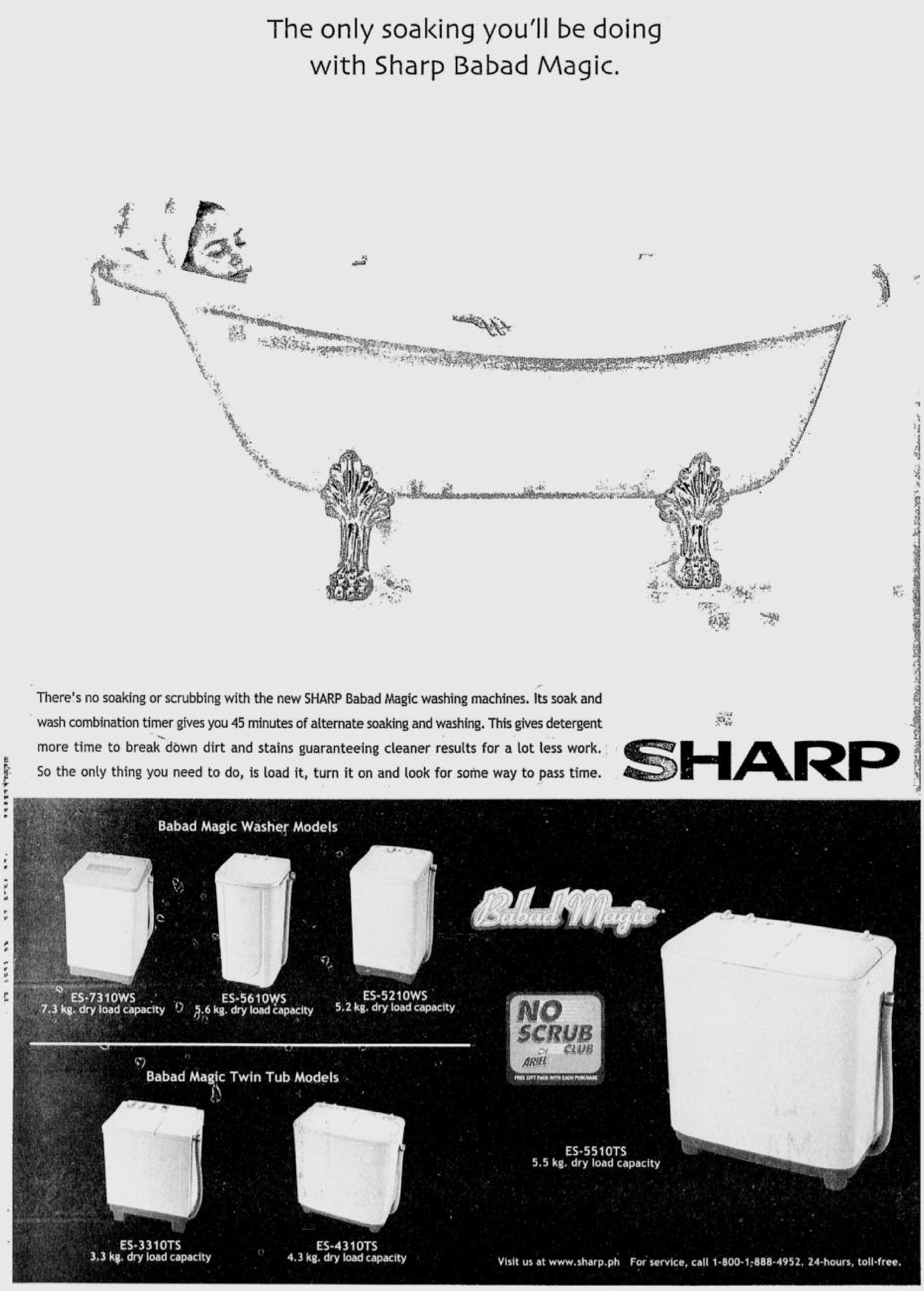
I FOUND your "Quid pro quo" editorial last Feb. 20 very relevant, substantive and timely but wanting in enthusiasm to force the issue and compel the Philippine leadership to realign its directions along the lines of a mutually advantageous US aid package it has seen fit to offer some of its allied nations.

Turkey, along with Kuwait, stands as the most important ally of the United States in the latter's current military initiatives, it being the launching pad for the invasion of Iraq. Firm on its independent position on the Iraq invasion despite being a US ally since the Cold War, Turkey has fervently and reasonably demanded concessions more than the aid package offered by the United States which is pegged at $26 billion.

Through the decades, we have been a close ally of the United States both economically and militarily as alliances of nations should be. But we have been taken for granted and not quite treated equally, a fact that the United States should not be held blameless for. We simply failed to insist on the treatment that we deserved. We have remained subservient, just proud to be the partner of a superpower. We mistakenly feel that it is a breach of good relations to push for something that the United States ought to readily extend to a needy ally.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is in a position to get reciprocal concessions from the United States. This should take priority in her discussions with the US president when she visits the country and should be made a major item on the agenda in her US state visit. I hope she can truly achieve and leave a legacy of economically uplifting programs for the country.

—**SAM F. MONTON,**
Jabonga, Agusan del Norte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Combat role of US troops in Balikatan 03-1?

IF we go back to 1907 about the "massacre" of the Tausugs by the Americans, the Christians in Mindanao can say the same thing about the Muslims. They have massacred more Christians in Mindanao than the Americans did to Muslims. The memories of these Muslims are selective.

For any legislators opposing Balikatan 03-1 and saying "our military can handle it," is totally ridiculous! Let's say it, our military cannot handle it without help from the United States. These bandits are better armed than the Philippine military. Our soldiers go to the jungle searching for the Muslim insurgents wearing slippers.

If the United States will assist our Armed Forces in seeking out these insurgents, we should all support it for the good of our country. Our country right now is in dire straits and yet some still put much emphasis in "*amor propio*." The welfare of the people must come first. The trouble caused by Muslim insurgency must end and the time to end it is now when the most powerful nation in the world is offering its help.—**leslie**

* * *

Why are our Muslim leaders focusing on the past and not the present? We know how the Abu Sayyaf is affecting our country locally and internationally. We should be focusing on what we could do to overcome our present problems. I am not saying that US help is the only solution. But we need to keep our eyes open to every solution. The past hurts but we must think outside of ourselves sometimes and think of the bigger picture...that is, our country.—**mll43**

* * *

I don't oppose the Balikatan exercises be it constitutional or not. If the Philippines will benefit from it, so be it. Be practical.

I even support US soldiers fighting hand in hand with our Armed Forces. Why not? Come on, everybody knows we don't even have enough arms to fight any war. All we have is fighting spirit.

The Muslims also get foreign help. There have been many instances of foreign trainers and experts being seen with Muslim separatists. "*Sabi nga sa* basketball *may* import *sila. Aba, dapat may* import *din ang* Armed Forces natin (As they say in basketball, they have imports; our Armed Forces should have imports, too).—**jesse**

* * *

It may be thrilling for little brown Americans to see GIs killing off the Abu Sayyaf, but the Constitution is clear on the point. The Philippines may not allow foreign troops into its territory for purposes of combat. The US forces are an overkill as the Abus are already on the run. The consequence of Americans directly killing Filipinos will be more serious than the Abu problem itself. This could become the catalyst for otherwise moderate Muslims in Mindanao to rise up and join the insurgency. Muslims in Mindanao hate what happened almost a century ago and they don't forget as easily as us little brown Americans.

When will we learn that an all-out war against the Muslim insurgents is not the permanent solution to the Mindanao problem? Marcos in the 1970s unleashed the full might of the Armed Forces against the Moro National Liberation Front and yet, after thousands of casualties on both sides, the problem hasn't dissipated. The solution is not the all-out war alone, but the way to fix the real problems of poverty and marginalization of Filipino Muslims in their own homeland.—**Karaniwang Tao**

* * *

If it takes the US Armed Forces to solve the Abu Sayyaf problem, and they are willing to risk their lives helping the Philippines, God bless them even more. A big hearty thanks from the bottom of my heart to them!—**Kydso**

* * *

Yes KT, poverty is the root. Now, how can you solve that everlasting poverty when kidnappings here and there by the Muslim Abus have scared away investors and many companies are closing shop and unemployment is getting worse? It's easy to say, but there are too many factors involved and the chain reactions are quite unpredictable.—**jesse**

* * *

Who says I don't agree? Abus, MILF, renegade MNLF groups, Pentagon, etc., they all cause widespread suffering not just in Mindanao. Eliminate them, I agree. That is why I agree that the Americans help us with the Balikatan exercises so as to provide us the necessary supplies and know-how to combat the menace.

But we must know how to follow our own Constitution. If not, who will?—**Karaniwang Tao**

* * *

Don't ask us about laws, especially the Constitution, because there are so many flaws in them. Do we understand our laws and their dark side? Mostly, politicians are using them for their own ends.

It's nothing much if at times an exception to the rule is applied just to solve the plague in Mindanao. Do you get the point KT?—**jesse**

* * *

Flaws and all, it's still the Constitution of the land. Nobody, not even the harshest, most sanctimonious critics of our laws and country, me included, has the right to violate it for the purpose of "eliminating the Abus." The end doesn't justify the means.

I don't agree that the military is so inept that we need the US soldiers to actually do the combat. Our soldiers are among the most battle-hardened in Asia. What they need are more help in terms of modern weaponry, training and financial support. The latest significant military victory against the Abu Sayyaf, the killing of Mujib Susukan, proves that training and support from Balikatan have helped boost their capabilities and strength.—**Karaniwang Tao**

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

North Korea restarts nuke reactor, US says

WASHINGTON—North Korea has restarted a nuclear reactor at its controversial Yongbyon complex in another significant step toward making new nuclear weapons, US officials said Wednesday.

But the unpredictable Stalinist state has not taken the more serious move of reactivating a plutonium processing plant at the complex, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The complex was mothballed under a 1994 accord with the United States that headed off a confrontation on the Korean peninsula over the North's nuclear arsenal.

But a new crisis has been brewing since the United States said last October that North Korea had admitted continuing atomic weapons research after the accord.

Washington has interpreted a growing number of provocative actions and gestures by Kim Jong-Il's regime as moves intended to increase the pressure for direct US-North Korea negotiations. So far Washington has refused.

US intelligence detected on Wednesday the signs that the five megawatt reactor at Yongbyon, had been restarted, officials said. There is also a 25 megawatt reactor and a larger unfinished reactor which could eventually produce more weapons grade plutonium.

"This is certainly less provocative than starting up the reprocessing facility," said one official.

"But it is significant nonetheless, and reflects North Korea's desire to continue their nuclear weapons development program as well as to apply some pressure on the United States."

Another US official said on condition of anonymity that reactivating the reactor was a "serious step" but "not unexpected."

In a move seen as trying to divert attention from the inauguration of South Korea's new president, Roh Moo-Hyun, the North on Tuesday test fired a cruise missile into the Sea of Japan.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was at the Seoul inauguration, warned the North that the rest of the world would take very "seriously" any move by North Korea toward reprocessing spent fuel rods and the production of nuclear weapons. *AFP*

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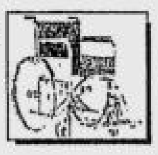
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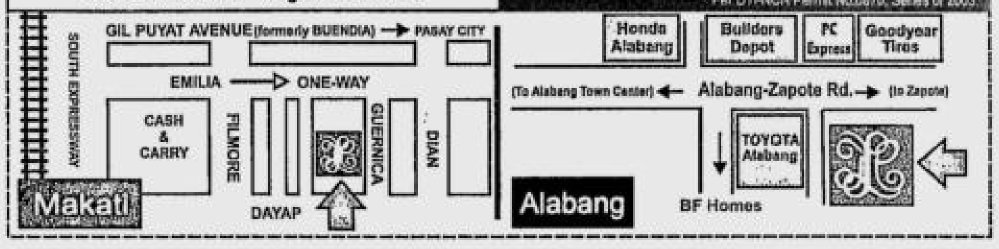

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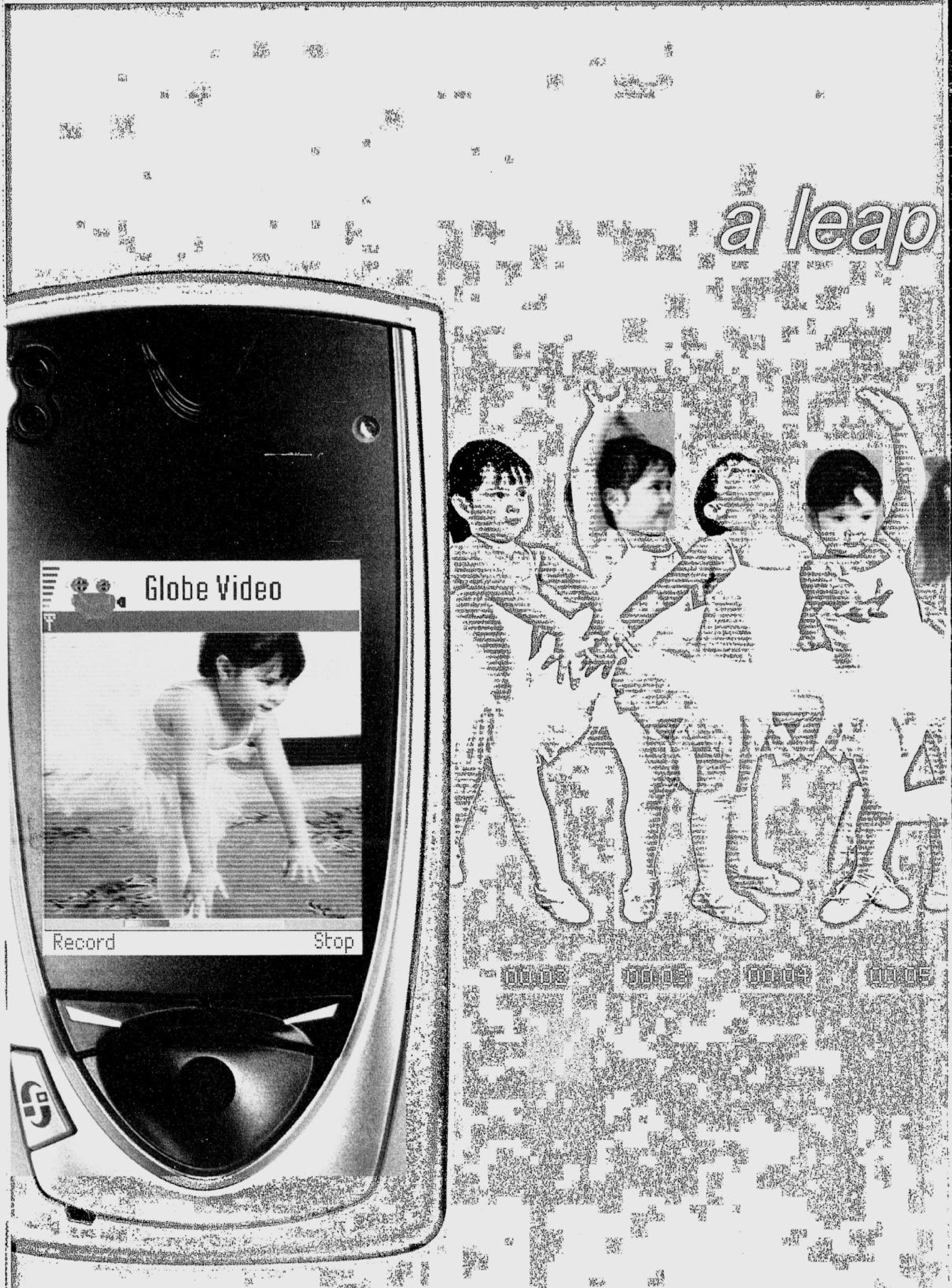
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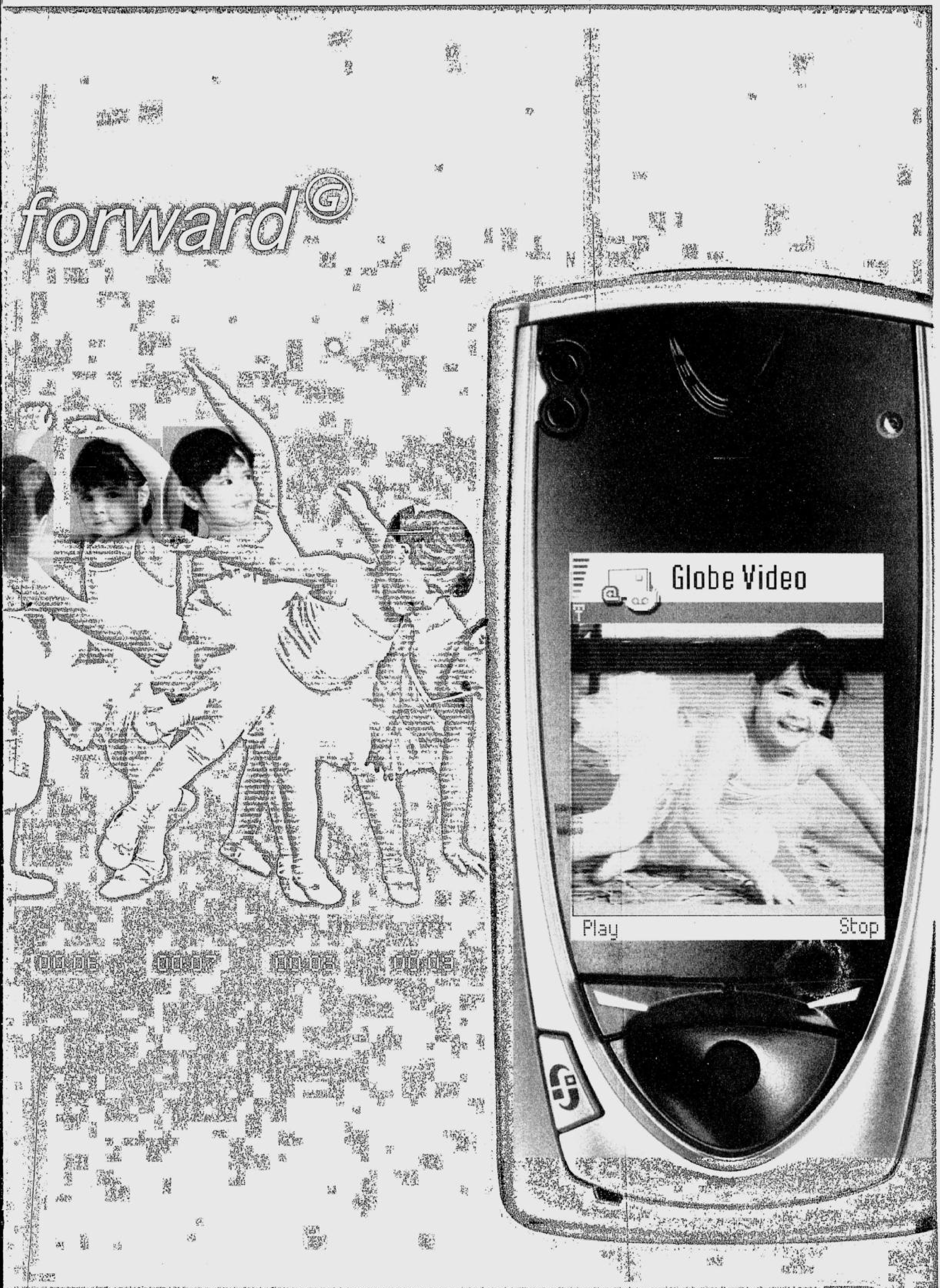

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Engineers feared shuttle's loss on eve of havoc

WASHINGTON—One day before the Columbia disaster, senior Nasa engineers raised concerns the shuttle's left wing might burn off and cause the deaths of the crew, describing a scenario much like the one investigators believe happened. They never sent their warnings to Nasa's brass.

"Why are we talking about this on the day before landing and not the day after launch?" wrote William C. Anderson, an employee for the United Space Alliance LLC, a Nasa contractor, less than 24 hours before the shuttle broke apart.

All seven astronauts died as the shuttle broke apart during reentry on Feb. 1.

The investigative board suspects a breach in the left wing allowed superheated gases to penetrate Columbia.

After intense debate—occurring by phone and e-mails—the engineers, supervisors and the head of the space agency's Langley research facility in Hampton, Virginia, decided against taking the matter to top Nasa managers.

Jeffrey V. Kling, a flight controller at Johnson Space Center's mission control, foresaw with haunting accuracy what might happen to Columbia during its fiery descent if superheated air penetrated the wheel compartment.

Kling wrote just 23 hours before the disaster that his engineering team's recommendation in such an event "is going to be to set up for a bailout (assuming the wing doesn't burn off before we can get the crew out)." Kling the following day was among the first in mission control to report a sudden, unexplained loss of data from the shuttle's sensors in the left wing.

The e-mails released Wednesday describe a far broader discussion about the risks to Columbia than the concerns first raised three days earlier by Robert Daugherty, a Nasa senior research engineer at Langley. He was mostly concerned about the safety of the shuttle landing with flat tires or wheels damaged from extreme heat.

Among the messages was one from Daugherty's boss at Langley, Mark J. Shuart, to another Langley supervisor, Doug Dwoyer, describing Daugherty as "the kind of conservative, thorough engineer that Nasa needs."

One e-mail, from R.K. "Kevin" McCluney, a shuttle mechanical engineer at Johnson Space Center, described the risks that could lead to "LOCV"—Nasa shorthand for the loss of the crew and vehicle. But McCluney ultimately recommended to do nothing unless there was a "wholesale loss of data" from sensors in the left wing, in which case controllers would need to decide between a risky landing and bailout attempt.

"Beats me what the breakpoint would be between the two decisions," McCluney wrote.

Investigators have reported such a wholesale loss of sensor readings in Columbia's left wing, but it occurred too late to do anything—after the shuttle was already racing through Earth's upper atmosphere and moments before its breakup.

Many of the e-mails Nasa released Wednesday were gathered at the direction of Ronald Dittemore, the shuttle's program manager at Johnson Space Center. In a message he wrote the day that news organizations first reported Daugherty's concerns, Dittemore asked for copies of the e-mails "so that I can see the traffic and get a feel for the conversations." *AP*

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'We must unite against war'

CITIZENS' CAUCUS, which met at Club Filipino in Metro Manila on February 20, 2003, wishes to report to the nation the position of its delegates on certain pressing issues, with the end in view of asking the citizenry and the Government to be particularly scrupulous in dealing with the same.

Out of 350 questionnaires issued to the delegates, 302 were returned to the Caucus. The results are as follows:

I – On Iraq

1. *Do you believe Iraq can be disarmed by the UN without war, or is war the only way to disarm that country?*
   a) Without war...............248
   b) Only by war..................54
2. *Should war against Iraq first be authorized by the UN Security Council, or should the US attack Iraq even without UN authority?*
   a) With UN authority.....238
   b) No UN authority..........57
3. *If the UN authorizes war against Iraq, should the Philippines send troops?*
   a) Yes...............................40
   b) No.............................258
4. *If the US attacks Iraq without UN authority, should the Philippines support such attack?*
   a) Yes...............................36
   b) No.............................262

II – On Electoral Reform

1. *Do you believe there can be honest presidential elections in 2004, even without electoral reform?*
   a) Yes..............................42
   b) No.............................256
2. *Do you believe allowing Filipinos abroad to vote will help make the elections more honest, orderly and credible?*
   a) Yes..............................15
   b) No.............................269
3. *Do you believe NAMFREL and those behind it are working for clean and honest elections or do you think they have their own vested interests to protect?*
   a) Working for clean and honest elections..........................63
   b) Protecting their own vested interests..........................212

III – On the rule of law

1. *Do you believe there is rule of law in the Philippines?*
   a) Yes................................81
   b) No...............................220
2. *Do you believe the issue of President Arroyo's constitutional legitimacy has been fully resolved in her favor?*
   a) Yes...............................103
   b) No.................................194
3. *Do you believe the Supreme Court justices have acted independently, without political and other considerations, in cases involving President Arroyo?*
   a) Yes.................................60
   b) No.................................226
4. *Do you believe President Arroyo has been faithful to the Constitution?*
   a) Yes.................................33
   b) No.................................262
5. *The President may be impeached for violating the Constitution. If Congress does not impeach, what should be done to make the President accountable for such violations?*
   a) Wait for 2004 elections 75
   b) Make her resign through 'people power'.............224

Francisco S. Tatad, Convenor

For inquiries, call Citizens' Caucus Secretariat, 1004 Richmonde Plaza, San Miguel Ave. cor. Lourdes Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605 Tel. No. 635-5458 Fax No. 635-5457

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German architect's design chosen for WTC site

NEW YORK—A complex of angular buildings and a 532.8-meter spire designed by Berlin-based architect Daniel Libeskind was chosen as the plan for the World Trade Center site.

Libeskind's design on Wednesday beat the THINK team's "World Cultural Center" plan, which envisioned two 499.5-meter latticework towers straddling the footprints of the original towers.

The choice was made by a committee with representatives of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. (LMDC), the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the governor and the mayor.

Both Gov. George Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg favored the Libeskind plan, an important factor in the decision, a source close to the process said.

LMDC Chair John Whitehead telephoned Libeskind with the news, the source said, telling the architect that his "vision has brought hope and inspiration to a city still recovering from a terrible tragedy."

Libeskind told the LMDC chair that being selected is "a life-changing experience," the source said.

Libeskind, whose firm is based in Berlin, has estimated the cost of building his design at $330 million.

Nine proposals for redeveloping the trade center site, where nearly 2,800 people died Sept. 11, 2001, were unveiled Dec. 18. The design competition was launched after an initial set of plans, released in July, was derided as boring and overstuffed with office space.

The two finalists each featured buildings surpassing Malaysia's 445-meter Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest in the world. The World Trade Center towers stood 405 meters tall. A small number of telecommunications towers would still be taller than the Libeskind spire.

Redevelopment officials were scheduled to announce the decision publicly on Thursday.

LMDC spokesperson Matt Higgins told reporters late Wednesday only that the committee met for 45 minutes on Wednesday afternoon and unanimously decided on a plan. *AP*

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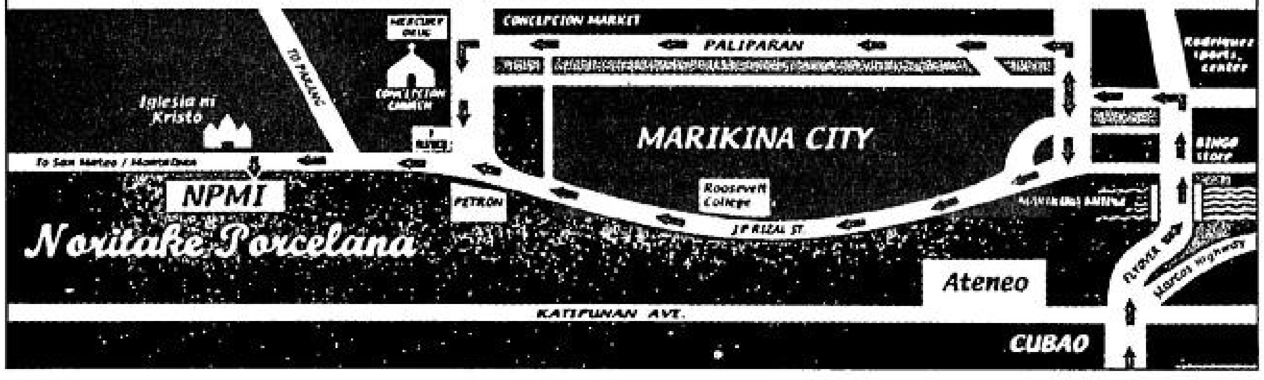

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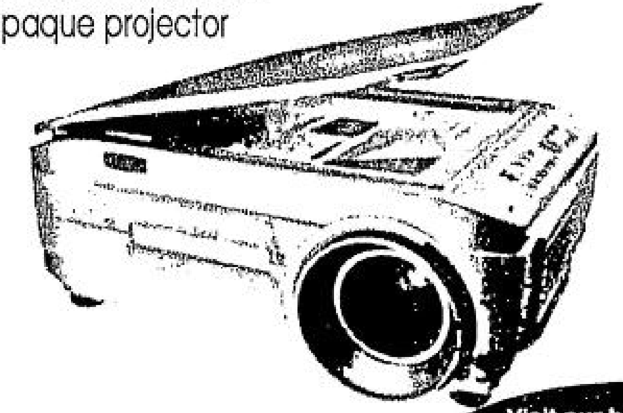

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"London Suite"
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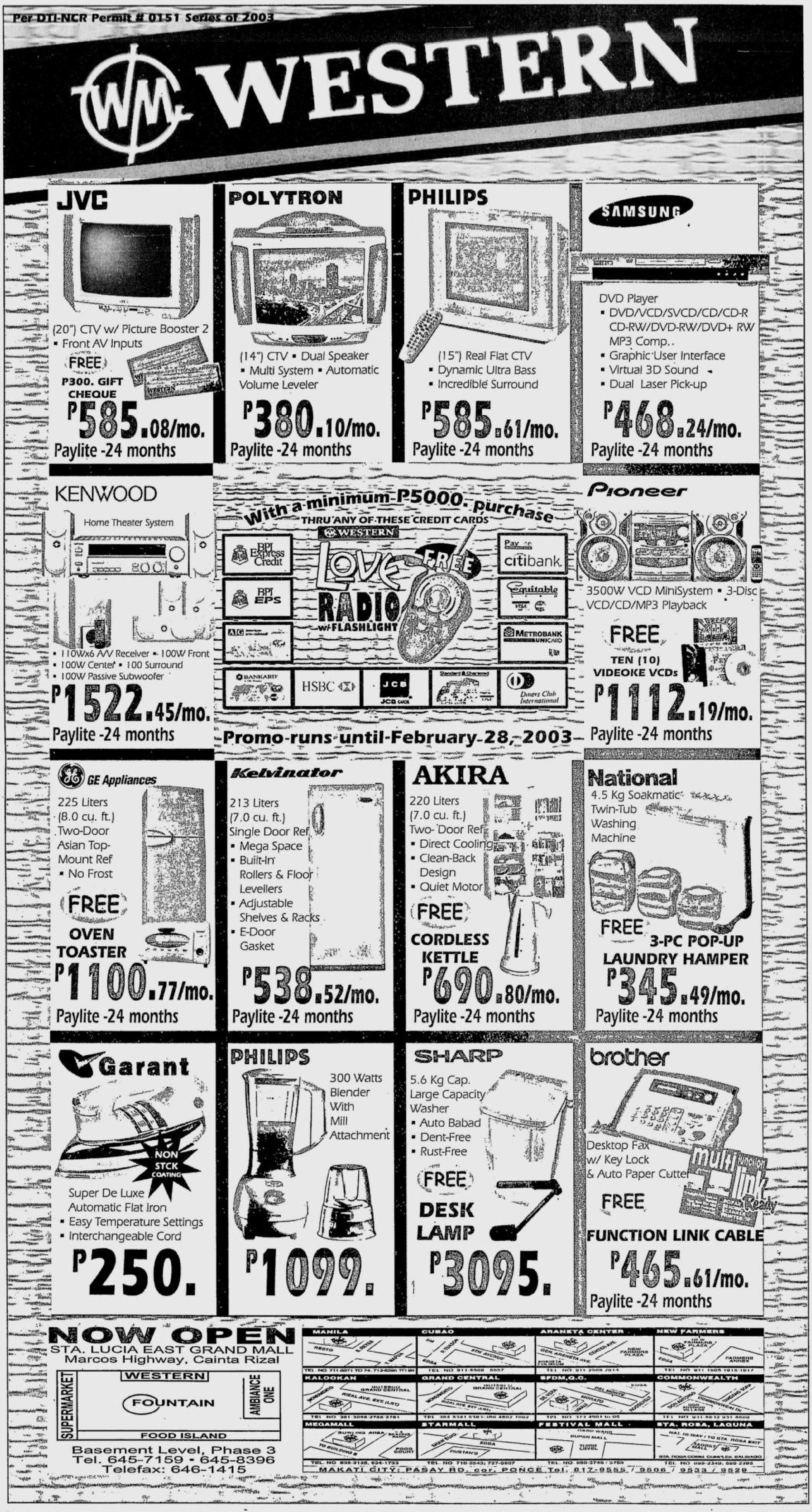

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Blair's solons oppose Iraq war

LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair suffered the biggest backbench revolt in his nearly six years in Downing Street on Wednesday when 122 lawmakers from his own Labour party came down against war on Iraq.

The show of pacifist dissent—at the end of a passionate afternoon of debate over Blair's unbending stance on Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction—was much stronger than political analysts had expected.

It also left Blair facing the prospect of a devastating split within Labour ranks—a split that might, in a worst-case scenario, even cost him his premiership—if he follows US President George W. Bush into war.

Amendment

The vote against war on the Iraqi president was expressed by way of a parliamentary amendment which declared that the case of military action, after 12 years of Iraq defying UN demands to disarm, was "as yet unproven."

The amendment itself was soundly defeated by a 393-199 vote, thanks in good part to solidarity within Blair's own cabinet and support from the opposition Conservatives.

But the fact that 122 Labour backbenchers were among the 199 who voted in favor of the amendment was a sign of how deeply the party—like Britain as a whole—is divided on the crisis.

A second vote, on the government's policy of seeking to disarm Iraq through the United Nations, was passed 434-124.

There was no immediate reaction from Blair, but Labour Party chair John Reid—one of the prime minister's most trusted associates—sought to play down the revolt, the most serious since Labour took power in 1997.

Heartfelt plea

"It is roughly what I would have expected from meeting people throughout the country and also meeting people inside the Labour Party," Reid told Channel 4 television.

"It is about a quarter of people who are not yet convinced, they say the case has not been proven, and about three-quarters who are prepared to countenance military action if it becomes essential."

But one of the Labour rebels, Graham Allen, urged Blair to listen to the anti-war camp and pull back from military action.

"It is a heartfelt plea from parliament to the prime minister to get off the treadmill to war," he said. "People here are willing to support the Prime Minister—but not George Bush."

Prior to the debate, Blair—who is Bush's staunchest ally on Iraq—made a urgent plea to lawmakers to back up his stance on Iraq, saying his government had put forward "a good case." *AFP*

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Plan to move Pampanga capitol hit

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Gov. Manuel Lapid's plan to transfer the provincial capitol to nearby Mexico town faces rough sailing, as Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo and the provincial board members here have stressed the need for a comprehensive public hearing on the issue.

Members of the provincial board were not impressed by architect Nestor Mangio's presentation last Monday on the proposed new provincial capitol and government center which is envisioned to include a bus terminal, a wet and dry market, a hospital, and a nursery.

Mangio told the board that Lapid had asked him to produce a master plan for the project.

The proposed 20-hectare capitol site is only several hundred meters away from the 254-hectare Lakeshore Subdivision of the Central Country Estate Inc. at Km 70 of the North Luzon Expressway. Mangio is president of the CCEI.

Arroyo said a public hearing must first be conducted to get the Pampangueños' consensus on the proposed transfer of the provincial capitol.

"This should be thoroughly studied and a comprehensive public hearing must be conducted to determine whether or not the people want the relocation of their capitol," he said.

Board members Joseller Guiao, Ferdinand Labung and Lilia Pineda also said Mexico should first be declared as the new capital of this province before the capitol's transfer to the area.

They said the provincial board, through a two-thirds vote of all its members, must first approve the proposal. This, they said, is provided for under the 1991 Local Government Code. *Jun Malig, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Strike at Hacienda Luisita over

By PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—The six-day-old strike at the Central Azucarera de Tarlac ended Thursday when the CAT management agreed to grant all the demands of the estate's workers.

After a marathon meeting, company and union officials signed a memorandum of agreement that would allow workers of the sugar central owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino to enjoy hospitalization and medical benefits, among other things.

The agreement signed by CAT Labor Union president Ricardo Ramos for the workers and CAT head Jose Manuel Lopa provides that:

- All hospitalization and medical benefits under the collective bargaining agreement shall be immediately and fully restored to the workers.
- An administrator shall be designated to address the employees' concerns regarding medical and hospitalization benefits.
- Vacant regular positions shall be immediately filed up with regular permanent employees.
- Seasonal employees who have served for at least six months in the company shall automatically become regular and permanent employees. No more seasonal employees shall be hired.
- No retaliatory action shall be taken against the workers by the firm or against the firm by the workers by reason of the strike.

The workers are returning to work at 7 a.m. today, company officials said, adding that the union would lift the picket and barricade they had set up in the sugar central.

Back to work

In staging the strike midnight of Feb. 21, union workers claimed that the company violated provisions of the collective bargaining agreement, particularly the non-filling up of vacancies, conversion of regular positions to seasonal ones, withdrawal of free hospitalization benefits for confinement outside company hospital, and the seven-day take home medicines.

Four demands, pertaining to hospitalization benefits, were granted during a conciliation meeting on Feb. 24 while one, concerning the filling up of existing vacant positions, was granted on Feb. 26.

The meeting was initiated by the management without the presence of any representative from the National Conciliation and Mediation Board.

But Wednesday night's meeting between the union and the management of CAT that lasted for five hours, failed to bring the two parties to an agreement over the issue of the management's conversion of regular positions into seasonal ones.

Abolished positions

In 1999, the CAT retrenched workers and their positions were abolished, according to a management source. Two years ago, he said, new position titles replaced these abolished positions. These new titles were seasonal positions.

The source said CAT vice president Ernesto Teopaco, who represented the company in Wednesday night's talks, appealed to the union not to force the issue on converted seasonal positions as a "form of balato" since all but one of the demands had been granted. *Russell Arador, Jo Clemente and Ronald Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Spare civilians in hunt for NPA, Army told

By Raj Padilla and Nestor Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) urged the military to spare civilian communities in their fight with communist rebels.

"Based on long-running experience, after an actual encounter or ambush involving the military and paramilitary troops, they (soldiers) usually turn their ire on the civilian communities whom they suspect to be mass bases of the NPA. We hope that this won't happen," said Jeffrey Celis, Bayan Chair on Panay Island.

He said the military should be clear with their targets and not just take on anybody who might turn out to be innocent.

The NPA launched pursuit operations against the NPA following Monday's encounter at the Sibaguan Creek in Barangay Daan Sur, Tapaz that left six soldiers, a militiaman and one rebel dead.

Another soldier was slightly wounded during the 30-minute gunfight with about 20 communist rebels.

Maj. Oscar Lasangue, Task Force Panay (TFP) spokesperson, identified the fatalities as Capt. Francisco Fonteveros, head of the Special Operations Team; S/Sgt. Francisco Garillas, S/Sgt. Ricardo Gentoloso, Pfc. Dande Talaman, Pfc. Renel Cordero and Cpl. Randy Cordova and militiaman Armando Gamayao.

The number of fatalities in the encounter was the highest so far on Panay Island in recent years.

The slain rebel was identified as Ismael (not Israel as earlier reported) Geganto, alleged leader of the NPA's Jose Percival Estocada Command operating in Central Panay.

The rebels also took five M-16 rifles, an M-14 and a UHF radio of the slain soldiers, said Lasangue.

Col. Jeffrey Sodusta, TFP commander, said the soldiers were outnumbered and out-positioned during the gunfight.

The two groups were about three meters apart, he added.

"It was a close-quarter battle and the story would have been different if the troops were not outnumbered," he said.

The soldiers were members of the Army's civic action team, said Lt. Col. Michael Manquiquis, Armed Forces chief public information officer, in a statement.

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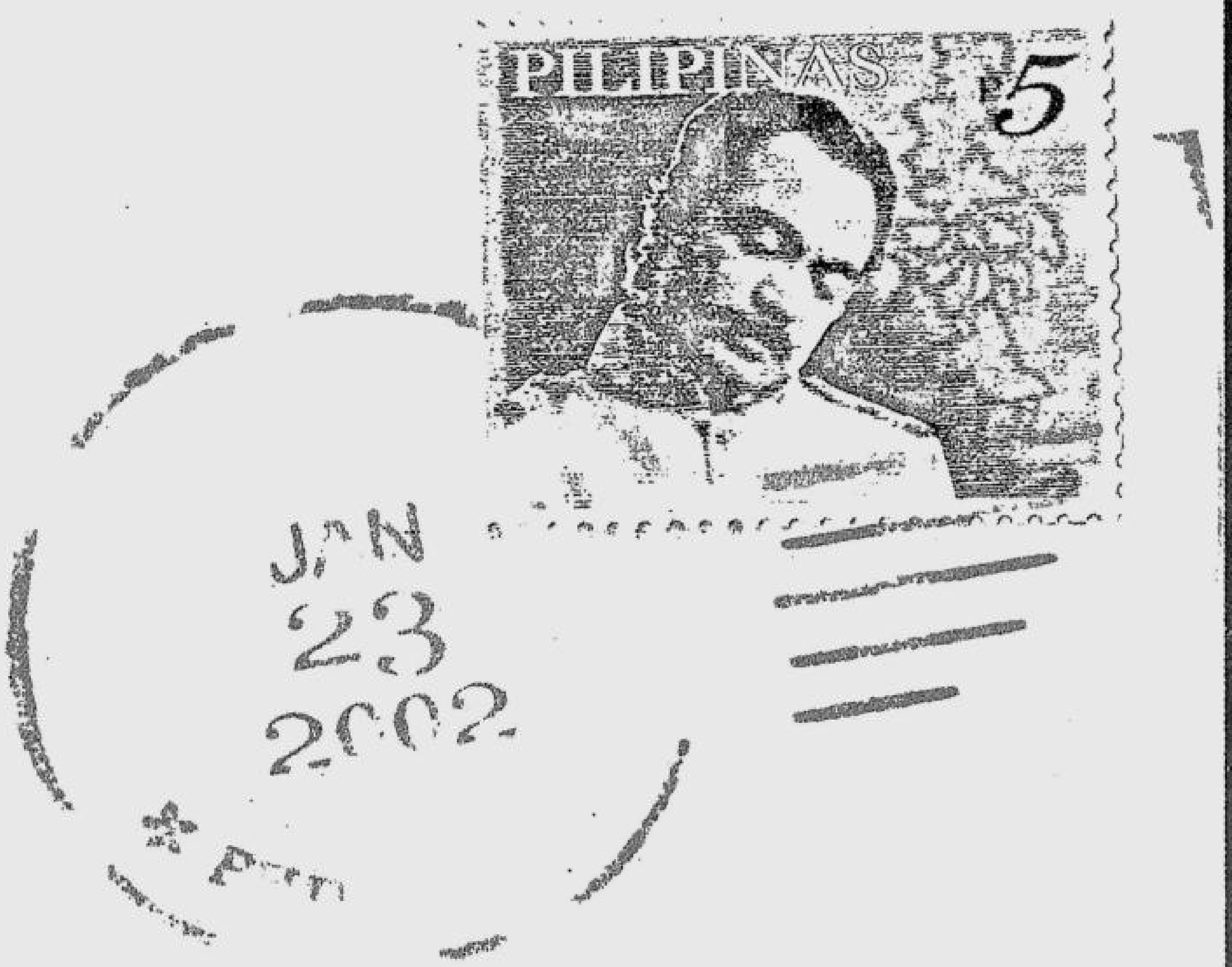

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Massive anti-war rally set today at Luneta

By Norman Bordadora

EVERYONE is invited but only those against war will be allowed to speak.

This was the condition set by organizers of this afternoon's peace and prayer assembly at the Rizal Park's Quirino Grandstand, Manila Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Bacani said at a news conference yesterday.

The multisectoral assembly—in which the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, students, as well as various activist groups will take part—is planned as the largest such gathering at the Luneta.

Among those scheduled to deliver messages of peace are Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The restriction on the topic for speeches appeared to be directed at President Macapagal-Arroyo and her surprise attendance at Sunday's prayer rally for peace organized by the Bangon Pilipino Movement and attended by members of the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai.

Ms Macapagal delivered remarks on the US-Iraq conflict for which she later drew criticism from INC Executive Minister Erano Manalo, who said she had politicized the religious event.

"This group's call for the President is to support the United Nations, not the United States. That, I think, is the bare minimum that she should do," Bacani said yesterday.

The peace assembly will start with a concert of joyful songs at 1 p.m. and end with a 10-minute noise barrage at 6 p.m.

"I hope the noise barrage will be successful and reminiscent of the protests during martial law," Guingona said.

Another peace assembly is scheduled at about 3 p.m. today at the Peñaranda Park in Legazpi City under the aegis of the Promotion of Church People's Response (Bicol chapter) in coordination with church, school and militant organizations.

PCPR chair Pastor Dan Relucio said at a news conference yesterday that other prayer rallies would be simultaneously held in various parts of the region to express opposition to the looming US strike on Iraq. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

1M calls jam US gov't lines in 'virtual march' vs war

From page A1

to use force against Iraq.

"Americans want us to work with our allies through the United Nations to contain the threat from Iraq," said Andrews, a former Democratic representative from Maine.

In Los Angeles, luminaries worked their phones, faxes and e-mails in a bid to flood the US leadership with anti-war messages.

They included Martin Sheen, who plays the US president in the hit series "The West Wing," Anjelica Huston, James Cromwell, Mike Farrell and Tyne Daley.

Sheen launched the Virtual March last week through a major TV advertising campaign featuring the actor.

"Our message to Washington will be clear—'Don't invade Iraq!'" he said then. "We can contain Saddam Hussein without killing innocent people, diverting us from the war on terrorism and putting us all at risk."

The virtual protest was intended as a follow-up to the huge anti-war rallies held worldwide middle of this month.

First of its kind

Andrews said more than 500,000 people had signed up on the Internet to take part, and that half a million more were also expected to participate without registering on the group's website (Moveon.org).

"We have hundreds of thousands of calls and faxes that we know are going in," he said. "It's a first-of-its-kind protest and a tremendous success already. People are making their voices heard loud and clear—don't invade and don't occupy Iraq." The website had a running total of what it said was the number of calls placed. As of 5 p.m. (2200 GMT) the number was almost 400,000.

The website was flashing the names of individual protesters above a map of the United States with quotes from e-mails sent to the headquarters and to lawmakers.

Each comment included the name and hometown of the protester.

Some protesters themselves had difficulty getting through. Molly Lanzarotta from Boston said she had to dial several times to get through to an answering service in the office of Democrat Sen. John Kerry, a leading presidential candidate for 2004.

Activists were given set times to call. Chicago marketing executive Mary Rickard was supposed to call at 3:14 p.m, 3:19 p.m. and 3:24 p.m.

The faxes from people who signed onto the website were also programmed to go out at set times.

White House spokesperson Ashley Snee said the switchboard received "a lot of calls" Wednesday.

Asked how the White House viewed the calls, she said: "It's a useful tool for people to express their views, but it's not objective or scientific or a way to measure public sentiments."

Key anti-war tool

Andrews said the Internet had emerged as a key tool for the anti-war movement in organizing protests and instantly reaching tens of thousands of activists.

"It allows us to be in touch instantly with activists all around the country and the world. It's a tremendous democratic tool," he said.

The office of Sen. Dick Durbin, who has opposed unilateral action in Iraq, received more than 800 calls in a nearly four-hour span Wednesday morning, about twice the number of calls it usually receives.

Durbin's spokesperson Joe Shoemaker also said his office had received 18,000 e-mails since Tuesday afternoon, more than five times the number it typically gets.

"A passionate, coordinated effort from citizens speaking out on an issue dear to their hearts can be quite moving," Durbin said in a written statement.

But he added: "If the goal is to tie up congressional phone lines and shut down the Capitol switchboard, there are better ways to get the point across." *Inquirer wires*

Blix boosts Bush case for war

From page A1

The council, however, will also discuss a French-Russian-German paper aimed at staving off war and prolonging inspections at least until July 1.

There was some evidence that Bush was gaining ground for military action, including signals that Mexico had changed its strong anti-war stance and was now preparing to back the US-driven resolution.

The Bush administration may have also won new ammunition for its position from Blix. The chief inspector said Wednesday, shortly before submitting a quarterly update on his team's work, that Baghdad had not taken "a fundamental decision" to disarm.

Blix welcomed recent Iraqi letters that contained new information about its weapons programs but said they did not represent "full cooperation or a breakthrough."

Nonetheless, he noted that inspections resumed only last November after a four-year break and asked: "Is it the right time to close the door?"

17-page report

Blix's 17-page report was delivered to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who will then send it to the Security Council. "It's a chronology of what we've been up to for the last three months," said Blix's spokesperson, Ewen Buchanan.

The report includes sections on staffing, training, ground inspections and aerial inspections conducted with American made U-2 spy planes and French Mirage jets.

Asked Wednesday whether there was any evidence that Iraq wanted to disarm, Blix said: "I do not think I can say there is evidence of a fundamental decision, but there is some evidence of some increased activity."

Blix's remarks were the most critical since the chief weapons inspector told the Security Council on Jan. 27 that Baghdad had not come to a "genuine acceptance" of the need to disarm.

Blix said an important test of Iraq's cooperation was Saddam's compliance with the order to start destroying his Al Samoud 2 missiles by Saturday. A panel of international experts determined earlier in February that the missiles exceed the range limit of 150 km set by the Security Council at the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Iraq's response to Blix's order will likely influence whether the council supports the US-backed resolution authorizing war.

New setbacks

But the United States still faces an uphill struggle to win the necessary nine "yes" votes and avoid a veto by France, China or Russia. So far Washington is assured of the support of Britain and Spain. Bulgaria, Mexico and Pakistan are likely to vote for the resolution.

But intense lobbying by the United States and Britain among non-permanent members of the 15-strong council faced a new setback Thursday, as fellow veto wielders Russia and China reiterated their opposition to military action and preference for a "political solution to the Iraqi issue."

France, the fifth veto wielder, has pointed out that a veto would be unnecessary since the US resolution had so little support in the Security Council.

Even Bulgaria, which had appeared firmly on the US side in the Iraq debate, showed signs of wavering Wednesday. Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg, who was returning home to Sofia from Washington, said: "We believe more needs to be done because a peaceful solution would be the most desirable."

Six of the 10 non-permanent members of the council—Angola, Cameroon, Chile, Guinea, Mexico and Pakistan—are at the center of frenzied US lobbying.

The Los Angeles Times reported Thursday that Pakistan had signaled that it would back the measure.

Bush speech

In a speech to conservative activists at the American Enterprise Institute, Bush emphasized a broader rationale to his case for war against Saddam's regime.

Changing the leadership in Baghdad could "begin a new stage for Middle Eastern peace and set in motion progress toward a truly democratic Palestinian state," he said.

"The passing of Saddam Hussein's regime will deprive terrorist networks of a wealthy patron that pays for terrorist training and offers rewards to families of suicide bombers," he said. "And other regimes will be given a clear warning that support for terror will not be tolerated."

There is little tradition of democracy in the Arab world, but Bush said a US-led invasion could change that.

"After defeating enemies, we did not leave behind occupying armies, we left constitutions and parliaments," Bush said. "There was a time when many said that the cultures of Japan and Germany were incapable of sustaining democratic values. Well, they were wrong. Some say the same of Iraq today. They are mistaken."

Post-war Iraq

A senior Bush administration official briefed reporters on the US vision of a post-war Iraq: The US military would control Iraq in the short term after Saddam's removal; troops would maintain security, protect Iraq's oil fields, ensure that other nations respect Iraq's existing borders and find and destroy weapons of mass destruction.

A civilian administrator eventually would take over the work of engaging Iraqis in the formation of a democratic government. The transition would last months, not weeks. A more precise estimate won't be possible until it is clear how Iraq weathered an attack.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the administrator would not necessarily be an American.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Lieberman, however, said appointing an American to oversee Iraq would put the United States "in the position of an occupying power, not a liberator."

As Bush made the case for war, Saddam said in an interview on CBS-TV's "60 Minutes II" program that if attacked, the country was prepared to defend itself.

"It is our duty, it is our responsibility to defend our country, to defend our children, to defend our people, and we are not going to succumb, neither to the United States nor to any other power," Saddam said.

Latest US poll

In the latest US poll, nearly two-thirds—64 percent—said they wanted the United States to wait for UN approval before launching a military strike against Iraq.

Thirty-one percent of the respondents said they thought the United States should act now against Iraq, according to the CBS News poll released Wednesday.

Like many recent polls, the CBS survey found that two-thirds—66 percent—said they approved of military action against Iraq. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

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127 million Filipinos by 2050, says UN

From page A1

age declines in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Because of HIV/AIDS and falling Third World fertility rates, the UN Population Division on Wednesday revised its mid-century world population forecast downward by 400 million to 8.9 billion.

Also for the first time, the UN Population Division projected that "future fertility levels in most developing countries will likely fall below 2.1 children per woman . . . at some time in the 21st century." That is the rate needed to ensure long-term replacement of the population.

In 1950, there were five countries below the replacement level, today there are 59 countries "and by 2050 we project the number to reach 154" countries, UN Population Division head Joseph Chamie said at a news conference.

In its "World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision," the UN Population Division estimated the number of deaths due to AIDS in the 53 worst affected countries at 46 million during this decade and said "that figure is projected to ascend to 278 million by 2050."

Chamie said the long-term impact of the epidemic remained dire.

"HIV/AIDS is a disease of mass destruction and we do not see vaccine coming soon," he said. "Our projections assume that prevalence rates will remain the same until 2010, then behavioral changes will start to change prevalence."

Two years ago, the division forecast that the world population would rise to 9.3 billion by 2050.

Asked about the accuracy of UN projections, Chamie recalled that in 1951 it projected global population of 6.28 billion by the turn of the century. The estimated total in 2000 was in fact 6.07 billion.

The new forecast of 8.9 billion for mid-century was the medium variant, Chamie said, with a low variant of 7.4 billion and a high of 10.6 billion.

Older

"The world population will be significantly larger, substantially older and more concentrated in the cities of the Third World," he said.

The deeper reductions in fertility also mean that the population in developing countries will age faster.

Globally, the number of people over 60 years old will nearly triple from 606 million in 2000 to nearly 1.9 billion by 2050. "Whereas six of every 10 of those older persons live today in less developed regions, by 2050, eight of every 10 will do so," the forecast said.

The number of people aged 80 or more will increase five-fold, from 69 million to 377 million.

On a global level, the median age between 1950 and 2000 grew from 23.6 years to 26.4 years, but by 2050 it's expected to rise by nearly 10 years—to 37 years. And 17 countries are expected to have a median age of 50 years or more, with Japan, Latvia and Slovenia topping the list at 53 years and the Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, Singapore and Spain right behind at 52 years, the forecast said.

India most populous

The report projects that by 2050, India will have replaced China as the most populous nation, with 1.531 billion people, compared with 1.275 billion at the turn of the century.

China's population is forecast to grow from 1.017 billion to 1.395 billion.

In third place, the United States is expected to grow from 285 million in 2000 to almost 409 million.

Somalia heads the list of fastest growing populations, with a projected increase from 8.7 million to 39.7 million.

Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Uganda and Yemen will also see their populations quadruple, the report says.

Other key findings in the report are:

- The total population of the more developed regions will remain stationary at 1.2 billion, but with big variations between countries.
- The population of developing countries is projected to rise steadily from 4.9 billion in 2000 to 7.7 billion, even on the assumption of falling fertility levels. Growth in the 48 least developed nations is likely to be particularly rapid, from 668 million to 1.7 billion.
- Life expectancy in developed countries is projected as rising from 76 years today to 82 a half-century from now; in developing countries, it is seen as rising from 63 to 73 years.
- International migration is expected to remain high, with an average flow of two million people a year from the developing to the developed countries; half of that to the United States alone.

China heads the list of migrant-suppliers (with a net outflow of 303,000 a year), followed by Mexico (267,000), India (222,000) and the Philippines (184,000). *With reports from AFP and AP*

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RP population prospects

Total population for 2003 (in millions): 79.999 = 40.28 (male) + 39.719 (female)

	1950	2000	2015	2025	2050	
Total population (in millions)	19.996	75.711	96.338	108.589	126.965	
	1995-00	2000-05	2010-15	2020-25	2045-50	
Total fertility (ave. no. of children per woman)	3.64	3.18	2.55	2.19	1.85	
Life expectancy at birth (years)	68.6	70.0	72.4	74.5	78.4	
Infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)	34.4	29.0	20.8	15.4	9.0	
Annual population growth rate (percentage)	2.03	1.79	1.43	1.11	0.37	
	2000			2050		
	Age groups					
	0-14	15-59	60+	0-14	15-59	60+
Percentage distribution of population in selected age groups	37.5	56.9	5.5	19.0	61.2	19.8
	1950	2000	2050			
Median age of the population	18.2	20.9	37.5			

source: United Nations World Population Prospects, 2002 revision

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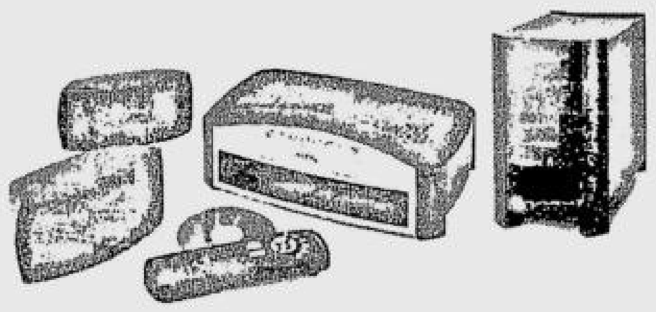

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'Worst fear has come'

From page A1

gao del Norte and Surigao del Sur and the Zamboanga Peninsula.

"Only the cities of Iligan and Marawi were spared because these were the ones near the Agus grid system," Vicar said.

Max Adiong, Napocor's operations chief for Mindanao, said no casualties were reported in the attacks, but added 90 percent of the island was without electricity for most of the night.

In two military camps in Zamboanga, where US forces are staying, troops scrambled into alert positions and armored cars rolled down the darkened streets, soldiers said.

Col. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 301st Infantry Brigade, said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was behind the attack.

Time bomb

Maj. Andrew Pastrano, chief of the Army's 58th Infantry Battalion based in Balo-i, Lanao del Sur, said "an improvised time bomb" was used to destroy the transmission tower.

"We have recovered splinters of the blast, which included a dilapidated clock that served as a timer," he said.

The Armed Forces initially reported that the MILF shelled the power pylon with mortar fire, but corrected this later.

The transmission tower, a double-circuit power pylon, supplies a 138-kilovolt power line to southeastern and northeastern portions of Mindanao.

Engr. Jojo Palma, Napocor manager for Southwestern Mindanao, said unidentified men also destroyed steel tower Numbers 34 and 40 in Buluan, Maguindanao on Tuesday.

"We were in the process of fixing the damaged structures, when we were informed that two more towers were toppled down in the Abaga-Lugait area in Lanao," Palma said.

As of yesterday, other Napocor officials said a total of 18 towers and transmission poles have been destroyed since the start of the fighting in Pikit on Feb. 11.

"The destruction and the power disruption for the past two weeks would translate to several millions of pesos lost for the government-owned power firm," Palma said.

He said it would take them days before repair would be completed.

"We need five to seven days to restore these (damaged) towers, depending on the prevailing peace and order situation and the condition of the terrain in bringing the needed construction materials at the site," Palma said.

Power restored

NTC spokesperson Rufino Villafuerte said 90 percent of power supply to the island had been restored by early Thursday with electricity from generators on barges and standby power plants, and diverted from other areas.

As of 3:20 p.m., Napocor's Eugene Vicar said power supply in most areas was restored after tapping independent power producers and the Mt. Apo Geothermal Plant in Kidapawan City.

"Our independent power producers, which are strategically located all over Mindanao, have been crucial in restoring the power supply. Only Aurora (in Zamboanga del Sur) and the (other) Zamboanga areas remain without power due to some technical problems," Vicar said early yesterday afternoon.

But in Cagayan de Oro City, Rufino Magbanua, Napocor spokesperson for northcentral Mindanao, said that even with the IPPs, power supply in Mindanao would remain insufficient until the towers are repaired.

"Mindanao should expect power fluctuation because of the unstable supply," he said.

MILF denial

Col. Ernesto Boac, commander of the 401st Brigade, also blamed the MILF, but the rebels denied involvement.

"There are no armed groups here who are capable of doing this. They are the only ones with a purpose because over the last several days we have intercepted messages that they will really be sabotaging our vital installations;" Boac said.

But Mohaqher Iqbal, information officer of the MILF Central Committee, said the directive from MILF chair Salamat Hashim was to attack only military targets, and not civilian centers or power lines.

"There is no such order (to cut power lines) to our forces because these are anti-people activities," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said by phone. "They are counter-productive for us."

On Monday, Salamat called on the guerrillas in a taped radio broadcast to "continue to fight 'til death, so that our people will achieve independence."

Army officials believe the attacks are reprisals for the capture by government forces of an MILF stronghold in Pikit town after fierce clashes two weeks ago.

Military Southern Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said the MILF had earlier threatened to attack power stations and steel towers "and we are blaming them for the latest attacks."

"The MILF has been hitting soft targets because they cannot fight head-on against the Armed Forces," Lucero said.

"The distribution line of the Napocor was affected, but as of now power has been restored in most areas," military spokesperson Maj. Johnny Macanas said. "We are on heightened alert to thwart possible further attacks."

"We have sent soldiers to guard vital power facilities in Mindanao and at the same time troops are hunting down the terrorists responsible for the attacks," said Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of the Southern Command. *Jeffrey P. Maningo, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Grace C. Albasin, Rosa-May V. de Guzman, Ayan C. Mellejor, Julie S. Alipala, Franklin M. Caliguid, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP; Reuters; AFP; Ronnel Domingo*

Don't cling to past, Moro leader tells Tausugs

From page A1

Hussin and Jikiri, however, were prevailed on to hold a dialogue with their constituents.

Speaking over radio dxSM, Iribani quoted Surah 9, verse 15 of the Islamic holy book both in Arabic and English: "Nothing will happen to us except what Allah has decreed for us. He is our protector. Upon Allah, let the believers put their trust."

"This is also the belief of Grand Imam Yacob Ismi. Nothing will happen to Lupah Sug (the old name of Sulu) if not by the will of Allah," Iribani said. Ismi is Sulu's Grand Mufti.

Asking for "forgiveness" from local religious scholars and theologians, Iribani admitted that while he had not studied religion in any *madaris* (Islamic school), he was citing the scripture to "remind the Tausugs how they were before.

"They submitted their fate to Allah, and this submission guided them in their actions and decision," he said.

Doctor Majul

Iribani lengthily quoted Dr. Cesar Adib Majul who, when he was dean of the University of the Philippines College of Arts and Sciences in the 1960s, authored the book "Muslims in the Philippines" among other works.

Appealing to the Tausugs not to cling to the past, Iribani quoted a passage from Majul. "(C)onsciousness of a long and glorious past can be both an advantage and disadvantage. It is a drawback if people live in memories of the past while neglecting the present and therefore their future... it is a vain and futile hope that sometime in the future their past will redeem them. What actually will take place is that they will be relegated into the limbo of neglected and forgotten people."

"Look at these two events, Bud Dahu and Bud Bagsak (with reason), because if we look only to the past, cling to it, we cannot open the door to the future," Iribani said.

The battle of Bud Dahu in 1906 when the American colonizing forces massacred over a thousand Tausugs has been frequently cited by those opposing the military exercises as reason for what they said was the strong animosity of the Tausugs against the Americans.

"But after Bud Dahu, the Americans realized that killing the Tausugs was not the solution, because the Tausugs were willing to die," he added.

He said that with the change in policy and the establishment of the civilian government with Frank Carpenter as governor of Sulu, "there was never a time in the history of Lupah Sug that was called 'peacetime' if not the period from 1915 to 1935."

The people of Sulu "fought side by side with the Americans against the Japanese" who committed far worse atrocities against the Tausugs in their four-year occupation of the province," he added.

Two governors

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the two governors "agreed to undertake talks with their constituents to explain the purpose and nature of Balikatan 03-1."

Asked if Hussin and Jikiri agreed to endorse Balikatan 03-1 to their constituents, Bunye said: "It is understood that they have accepted the fact that Balikatan 03-1 would be held in Sulu."

Wisner, who was also the US deputy defense secretary for policy at one time, said the Philippines faced a terrorist threat "that goes beyond the simple and local circumstances of the Abu Sayyaf Group."

"The US will be engaged side by side with Filipino friends and allies fighting in order to make certain that the threat of terror is removed from one part of your country. I think that's the right thing to do," Wisner said.

However, Wisner, in speaking before a forum of the Asia Society in Makati City, made it clear that he was no longer speaking for the US government since he was already in the private sector.

"The US has stepped up to the plate," Wisner said.

Salonga, in an interview marking the birth anniversary of Sen. Jose Diokno, said the planned deployment of US combat troops "should be exposed for what it is, a move of aggression against our own government."

"We are calling on the President to stop this, and not to allow the US soldiers to go to Mindanao," ex-Sen. Wigberto Tañada said.

"We have seen what has happened before. We are very much disturbed and very much alarmed," he said.

Tañada said he hoped the rest of the Magnificent 12 could come out in the open to help campaign against the plan to send out US troops to fight in Mindanao. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Donna Cueto, Norman Bordadora; AFP*

'I saw city lights starting to blur'

"I SAW the city lights starting to blur as if losing life. Then in an instant, there was total darkness," Col. Armand Bañez, commander of the 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team in Zamboanga City, said minutes after the power outage hit Mindanao.

From the MBLT headquarters in Barangay Cabatangan, one can see the whole stretch of the city.

Bañez was taking a breather outside his room at around 11:25 p.m. Wednesday when the blackout plunged the city and most of Mindanao into total darkness.

Only the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Barangay Sta. Maria, the Southern Command headquarters in Barangay Upper Calarian and Camp Arturo Enrile in Barangay Malagutay had electricity, thanks to their power generators.

Farther away, Bañez could see lights coming from small fishing boats and big fishing vessels.

In the streets, pale beams crisscrossed from the flashlights of police, Marine and militia forces manning checkpoints. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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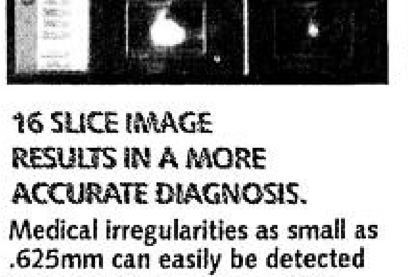

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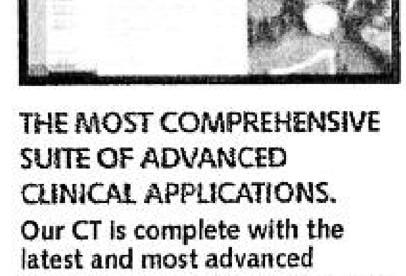

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SPORTS

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Paragua back in contention

GRANDMASTER-candidate Mark Callano Paragua (Elo 2506) outmaneuvered his 5th round opponent to get back in contention in the 4th Asian men's individual chess championship Wednesday in Doha, Qatar. Paragua walloped 31st seed Rustem Sadykov (Elo 2421) of Kazakshtan to improve his record with 3.0 points in five games of play.

2 RECORDS POSTED

Canlubang virtual PAL Interclub champ

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

DAVAO CITY–Suddenly, Canlubang seemed set to leave the portals of this great city lugging two PAL Interclub records that will take decades, if not forever, to break.

Firing a 139 yesterday at Apo after opening up with a 141 at Palos Verdes, Canlubang virtually won the tournament's 56th edition with still two days left in this fabled event also known as the national team golf championship.

That materialized a day after Abe Rosal, one of Canlubang's mainstays, gunned down the first double-eagle in PAL Interclub history at Palos Verdes' par-5, 12th using a 7-wood from 218 yards.

Canlubang's second-round performance yesterday practically assured the Laguna parbusters of a first-ever four in a row victory, making it a historic double celebration for Luigi Yulo's team by tomorrow when it formalizes its 12th victory.

With Canlubang's two-day total of 280, the Sweeties were 28 unreachable points away from the second-running Manila Southwoods.

Canlubang's scorers yesterday were Jay Bayron with 36, Boyet Zaragoza 35, and Tommy Manotoc and Dave Hernandez with 34s.

Just the other day, the one-time champion Southwoods was only 3 points behind Canlubang.

But Southwoods turned from brilliant to mediocre overnight as it could only produce a puny second-round 114 from its Wednesday's 138.

Southwoods' Artemio Murakami had 33, Erwin Vinluan 30, Panchito Garcia 27 and Juami Rocha 24. Jun Jun Plana's 23 did not count.

If this were basketball, Southwoods' 252 against Canlubang's 280 was like a 10-point deficit with 3 seconds left in the game.

Funny, but the opposition has not conceded defeat.

"The ball is round and we have two rounds to go," said Thirdy Escano, the Southwoods' captain. "I believe we still have a chance (to win), however slim. You can be sure of one thing, though–we will die fighting."

Third placers Luisita and Del Monte were at 236, 44 points behind Canlubang and 16 conquerable points off Southwoods.

Luisita's Iggy Clavecilla also refused to concede. Said he: "*Maski may tama na kami sa kili-kili, tutuka pa rin kami* (Even if we seemed mortally wounded, we will fight up to the last drop of our blood")."

Canlubang's Tommy Manotoc is supremely confident of victory in the five-to-play, four-to-count format sponsored by 105.1 Crossover, ABS-CBN Global, Air Philippines, Airbus, CNN International, Fortune Tobacco, GE Aircraft Engines, Joey 92.3, MTV Philippines, PLDT, Premier Wine and Spirits, Radio Mindanao Network, Royal Caribbean International, The Marco Polo Davao, UMBN/ Mindanao Times and Pilipinas Shell.

"I'm confident of victory and you can quote me on that," said Manotoc. "For us to lose, Manila Southwoods has to play exceptionally well. And for Southwoods to win, we have to play exceptionally bad."

Luisita's scorers are Francis Gaston with 32, Alex Montelibano 29, Richie Garcia 28 and Jinky Tuason 28. Jojo Guingona's 25 did not count in the series that has 96.3Wrock, Apo View Hotel and Boeing International Corp. as corporate sponsors.

The event also drew the support of Accel Sports Gear, Asia Brewery, Century Park Hotel, Tanduay Rhum, Taylor Made, Nestle Philippines and Discovery Channel.

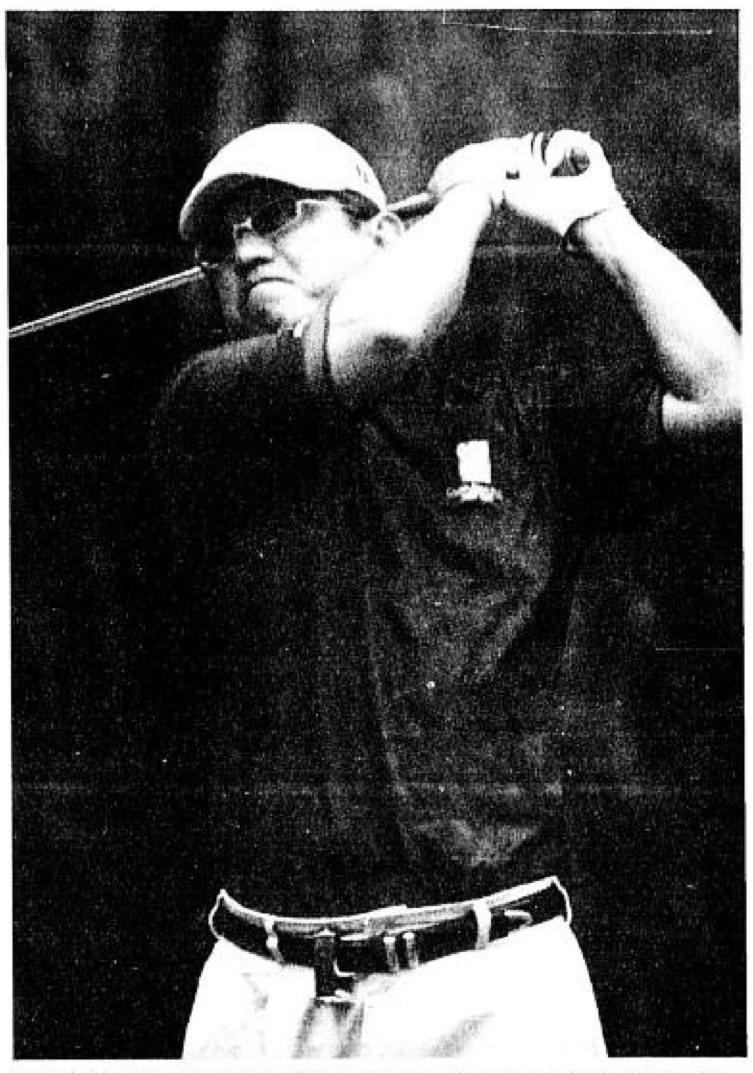
Partial results:

Championship - Luisita 119-117=236, Wack Wack 121-107=228, Orchard 114-94=208, Valley 101-90=191, Alabang 92-88=180, Villamor 99-77=176, Mactan 82-83=165, Negros 86-73=159, Hong Kong 52-65=117, Pinoy Singapore 49-62=111, Jap-Fil Golfers 59-36=95, Brotherhood Sharp 48-40=88.

Founders - Cebu Country Club 103-128=231, Riviera 106-112=218, Iligan 98-116=214, Forest Hills 96-108=204, Camp Evangelista 92-107=199, Manila Golf Club 110-87=197, Lanang 114-80=194, Palos Verdes 92-98=190, Pueblo del Oro 95-84=179, Camp John Hay 97-73=170, Stanford 72-71=143, Bacolod 7-65=139, Navy 80-57=137, Vicmico 61-61=122, Greenhills West 59-53=112.

Friendship - Maharlika 92-85=177, South Cotabato 76-79=155, UP Tee Jots 60-79=139, San Jose GB 67-61=128, Mt. Malindang 57-66=123, Mabuhay 51-60=111, Hawaii Fil-Am 50-54=104, Alliance 54-47=101, Skywest 48-48=96, Mountain Shadows 45-42=87, Riyadh Drirab 41-41=82.

Sportswriters - Team L.A. 191, Paoay 174, Iloilo 168.



FREDDIE Mendoza of Camp John Hay making a shot on hole No. 10 at the Apo Country Club.

ROGER MARGALLO

President's Cup March 8

THE President's Cup and annual amateur event staged to honor the club president of Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club will be held March 8 with a big field expected to vie for top honors in five divisions.

The current club president is Jerry Tiu who assumed office in 2001, while club chair is Benito Tan Guat and vice-chairs are Willy Ocier and Hans Sy.

Due to the unexpected large number of entries, organizers of the event said slots will only be opened to the first 160 participants. Deadline for registration is on March 5 at 5 p.m.

The event is open to members, spouses, dependents and guests of members of both Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club, Inc. and Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club, Inc.

There will be five categories, namely Group I for the lowest 30 percent gross scores, Group II next 40 percent and Group III the last 30 percent gross scores, and the ladies and guest divisions with fabulous prizes at stake.

Invited guests will be led by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and commissioner Ambrosio "Bong" de Luna.

The much-anticipated event also serves as the kick-off leg of a series of club-sponsored tournaments namely: the Belle Cup on May 2-3 and the Club Championships in Oct. and Nov. at both Highlands and Midlands, and the Members' Merry Mix-Up on Dec. 6 at the Midlands.

Kiwi shocks Els; Woods advances

CARLSBAD, California--World No 2 Ernie Els joined the list fallen favorites on Wednesday, crashing out of the $6-millionr World Match Play Championships after losing in extra holes to Phil Tataurangi.

The 33-year-old South African joined other top seeds No. 4 Retief Goosen and No. 5 Sergio Garcia on the sidelines.

Reigning Masters and US Open champion Tiger Woods advanced to the second round with a 2 and 1 win over Sweden's Carl Pettersson.

The 27-year-old American played bogey free through all 17 holes and finished with three pars.

Players are seeded in four brackets with Woods and Els being the top two seeds.

Els was stunned in his first round match by No. 63 seed Tataurangi of New Zealand in 20 holes. *AFP*

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RAZON MEMORIAL

Rosales hangs on to 1 shot lead

By Jong Arcano

AS the man notorious for second place finishes came breathing down his neck, Gerald Rosales barely held on to the lead after an error-laden round of two-over-par 74 yesterday in the Don Pocholo Razon Memorial golf tournament at exclusive The Country Club in Laguna.

The relentless gusts blowing from all directions again turned club selection into a brain-twister and Rosales remained the embattled leader that he was since Day One after slipping with two bogeys on the last three holes for a 54-hole aggregate of 216.

Cassius Casas, shooting the day's only sub-par round of 71, was within arm's reach at 217 and led a bunch of potential challengers to Rosales' bid for the whopping million-peso winner's paycheck.

It's a seven-digit paycheck Casas, who had lost five title bids the past six weeks in the First Gentleman's circuit, wouldn't want to throw away.

There will be so many others who can steal the win from them, however, as Cookie LaO, the rookie pro whose steady play makes him the biggest outside threat, made great recoveries en route to a 75 and Onyot Lascuna fared a little better with a 74 to be just two shots behind at 218.

Dan Cruz and Rey Pagunsan likewise stayed on track for a big payday with their respective scores of 72 and 75 putting them at 220.

Angelo Que (77-221), Mars Pucay (76-222), Robert Pactolerin (74-222) and Benjie Magada (73-222) were likewise very much in the fight, considering the way fortunes have changed under the playing conditions.

The eminent Frankie Miñoza, however, is good as done. He stood 12 shots off the lead at 228 after a 76 marred by three three-putt miscues.

Rosales, who won P1.1 million for a Top 10 finish in the Malaysian Masters last week, felt he didn't play the way he wanted to: "I don't think my round today can be called a collapse. I just didn't play well today."

Casas remains upbeat on his chances but felt the winds will play a big factor: "It's using the right clubs for a particular type of wind direction that will spell the difference."

The scores:

216 - G. Rosales 72-70-74
217 - C. Casas 71-75-71
218 - C. LaO 72-71-75, A. Lascuna 72-72-74
220 - R. Pagunsan 76-69-75, D. Cruz 78-70-72
221 - A. Que 72-72-77
222 - M. Pucay 71-75-76, R. Pactolerin 73-75-74, B. Magada 71-78-73

Columbus benefit golfest set March 7

THE KNIGHTS of Columbus Council 6238, in its continuing commitment to serve the community, will hold its First Knights of Columbus Golf Invitational at the Alabang Golf and Country Club on Friday, March 7.

According to Council Grand Knight SK Jose C. Alcantara, the tournament will help raise funds for the council's community projects lined up for 2003. Among these are the awarding of scholarship programs for Tesda students and deserving high school graduates, granting financial assistance for the parents' livelihood projects such as screen printing and candle-making, providing sign-language books for the hearing-impaired children and conducting medical and dental missions.

Ceremonial tee-off will be led by the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Antonio Yulo. Close to 100 participants from the different sectors are expected to join the 18-hole, System 36-format tournament which is presented by Mitsubishi Motors.

Major sponsors are Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Citra, Citibank, Land Bank, Pagcor, SFM Sales Corp., and Yusen Air and Sea Service Phils. Inc.

At stake as hole-in-one prize is a brand-new motorcycle courtesy of Kawasaki Motors Phils. Corp. Hole sponsors are A&T Resources and Devt. Corp., Asia Overseas Transport, Dynamic Signmakers Outdoor Services, Goodyear Phils., Honda Cars (Caloocan), ISSI Inter-Structure Systems Inc., JVM Water Source, and Trifam Insurance and Services Corp.

For more details, call Felix "Ely" Morales at 0919-317-0653.

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It's Taguig vs Shineway

FORWARD Taguig shocked favored M. Lhuillier of Cebu, 87-86, while Ozamiz's Shineway Ham Sausage crushed Mandaluyong's Wang's Ball Club, 94-74, Wednesday to arrange a showdown for the Luzon title of the National Basketball League's first regional championship at the Tinga gym in Taguig, Rizal.

Veteran Ronnie Cahanding scored the winning basket for Taguig, while Egay Echavez, Steve Marucot and Jerry Jaca sparkled for Shineway with 18, 16 and 15 points, respectvely.

Taguig and Ozamiz, which finished the eliminations with identical 4-1 records, were disputing the crown at the Tinga gym at presstime last night.

Spring Cooking Oil subdued Pampanga's University of Assumption, 93-87, in the other game of the cagefest sponsored by adidas, Burlington, Oishi, Shineway Ham Sausage and Mei Mei Bihon.

NBA results:

Boston 71, Indiana 69; Philadelphia 111, Memphis 107; New Jersey 105, New York 76; Phoenix 118, Milwaukee 112; New Orleans 91, Miami 82; Minnesota 92, Utah 85; Chicago 103, Toronto 95; Portland 94, Denver 84; Seattle 93, Atlanta 76; Golden State 108, LA Clippers 94. *Reuters*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Rockets vs Wizards, 8 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.), Pistons vs Celtics (Game 7, 1987 East Finals), 12 noon (r - 11:30 p.m.), Solar Sports, Kings vs Mavericks, 8:30 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.), Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff, 8:30 p.m., Star Sports

POOL: Rack 'Em Up 2, 1 p.m. (r), Star Sports

GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour, 11 a.m. (r - 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.), Star Sports

Nissan Open, 11:30 a.m. (r) and 2:30 p.m., Star Sports

The Golf Club 2003, 12:30 p.m. (r) and 3:30 p.m., Star Sports

BOWLING: USA vs Europe Tenpin Bowling 2002, 8 a.m. (r), ESPN

SOCCER: Goals!, 1:30 p.m., ESPN

Football Asia, 5:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

Spanish League Highlights, 6 p.m., Star Sports

Here We Go!, 11:30 p.m., Star Sports

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Warriors rip Laguna cagers, enter Nat'l Studes semis

By Roy Luarca

LEGASPI CITY—University of the East found its rhythm late in the third quarter and went on to rout University of Perpetual Help System-Laguna, 94-68, yesterday in the quarterfinals of the 57th National Students Basketball Championships at the Albay Astrodome here.

Ollan Omiping and Charles Tan scored five points each as the Warriors dropped a 13-point bomb that finally put away the smaller Saints, 70-46, ending the third quarter.

Before that explosion, it was Philippine team aspirants James Yap and Paul Artadi who carried the scoring load for UE, which advanced to today's semifinals of the collegiate division. Yap finished with a game-high 22 points while Artadi and Omiping contributed nine each.

"The boys hit their stride quite late. They need to play better in the semifinals," said UE coach Boyzie Zamar, who is bidding to end the Warriors' 30-year title drought in the tournament also known as the National Inter-Collegiate and Inter-Secondary Basketball Championships.

In secondary play, University of Visayas and San Beda College hurdled their opponents and closed in on a repeat of last year's title-showdown won by the Baby Lancers.

UV whipped Salazar Institute of Technology, 102-71, while San Beda dumped USJR, 90-59.

NCAA titlist San Beda, which drew 17 points each from 6-foot-5 center Claiford Arao and 2001 RP Youth member Jayfelson Agbayani, is slated to meet Ateneo de Davao in today's semis.

Ateneo beat Andres Soriano High School, 89-79, in another quarterfinal encounter. Iloilo Chinese Commercial High School, starring 6-foot-5 Kenneth Bono, forged a semfinal duel with UV by subduing Philippine College of Criminology, 86-78.

Wednesday's collegiate games saw UV trounce PMI, 94-85, and defending champion St. Francis of Assisi clobber Luzon University, 111-59.

The tournament is being supported by Cebuana Lhuillier, Spring Cooking Oil, Healthy Options, YKL Films, Absolute, Baker's Fair and Molten.

Big J wants stiffer fines for drug users

By June Navarro

JAWORSKI

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
5:00 p.m.—Red Bull vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel

SEN. Robert Jaworski yesterday urged the Philippine Basketball Association to impose stiffer penalties tougher than what the league had meted out on two players found using a banned substance.

But at the same time, the ``Living Legend" of Philippine basketball said the offenders should be under close medical supervision so as to guide the cagers with their careers.

``The use of prohibited drugs and other banned substances is a disease that must be cured. These players are sick and we must help them before it is too late," Jaworski told the INQUIRER.

The former PBA superstar was referring to Asi Taulava of Talk N Text and San Miguel's Dorian Peña who tested positive for marijuana use.

Jaworski said the two-game suspension the PBA had leveled on Taulava and Peña was lighter than the penalties that should be meted out under Republic Act 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act.

Republic Act 9165 imposes a six-month rehabilitation program for first-time offenders and imprisonment for second-time users ranging from six years and one day up to 12 years with a corresponding fine that could reach as much as P200,000.

Instead of a two-game suspension for first-timers, Jaworski said the erring players should be suspended for one month without pay while undergoing a mandatory rehabilitation scheme.

'Love Run' reset

THE LOVE Run, the 2nd Annual Fun Run of the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc., has been postponed to a latter date to allow registration of more participants and sponsors for this once-a-year fundraising event for the benefit of the cerebral palsy children.

This was announced yesterday by PCPI chair William M. Balliett who said that the event is backed by Fe S. Panlilio Jewellers as major sponsor, Department of Tourism headed by Secretary Richard Gordon, Philippine Basketball League, Crystal Spring, Blu Star Detergents, Blue Cross and Welcoat Paints.

"Originally set for Sunday, March 2, at the Quirino Grandstand, the event will be moved to a latter date to allow more people from the business community, diplomatic corps, student groups and even the Armed Forces of the Philippines the opportunity to help the cerebral palsy children," said Balliett.

Interested participants and sponsors may call 727-9987 for registration.

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Race 3--1. Juan Marco 2. Gleaming Heart 3. Adrenalin
Race 4--1. Duty Bound/Holy King 2. La Signorina 3. Incrediview 4. Schumacher
Race 5--1. Flirt 2. Doctor Steve 3. Sir Lawrence
Race 6--1. Little Sam 2. Better Harry 3. Point of Interest 4. Courage Heart 5. River Bandit 6. Real Piker Master
Race 7--1. Notable 2. Annihilator 3. Red Bells
Race 8--1. Sealed With A Kiss 2. Heavy Metal 3. Lady Victoria 4. Enseguida 5. Trick Shot
Race 9--1. Ocean Menary 2. Hearts on Fire 3. Norisky 4. Enjoy D View 5. Classy Babe 6. Dominant Dancwer

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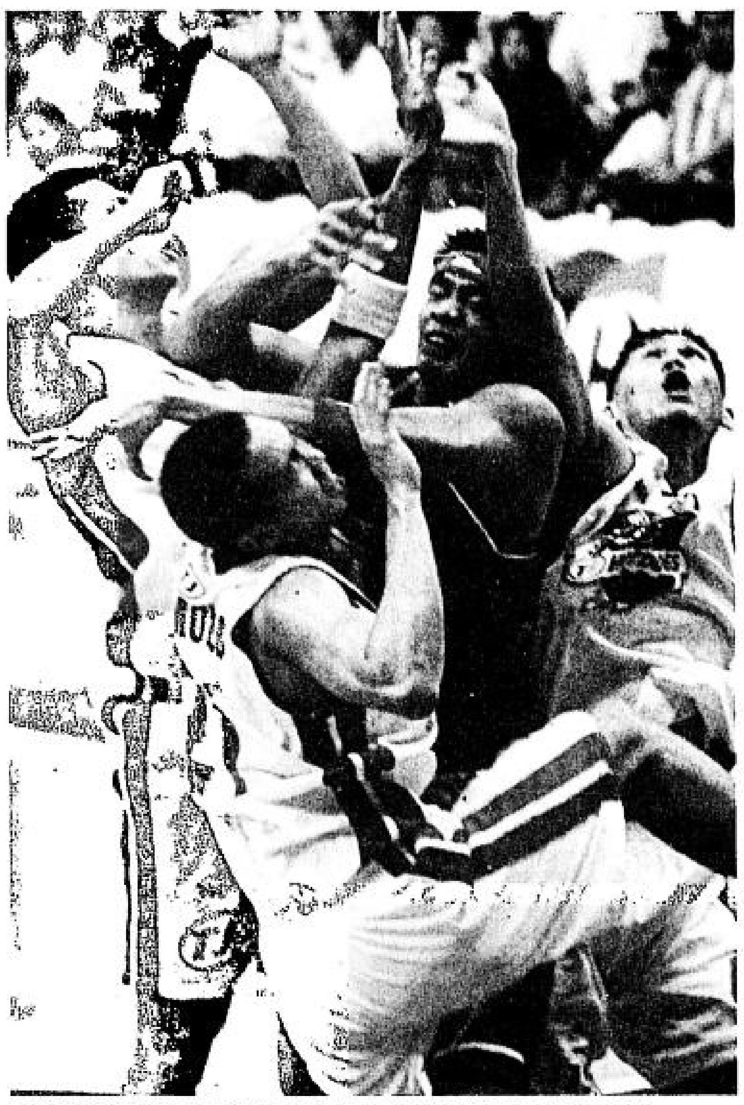

BARANGAY Ginebra's Romel Adducul (center) finds himself smothered by the Purefoods trio of Rey Evangelista, Kerby Raymundo and Billy Mamaril in this bit of PBA action Wednesday night. Ginebra won, 84-76. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Pasay derby tonight

NON-stop fights will highlight the big-time 5-cock derby tonight (one-day) at Pasay City Cockpit, now acknowledged as the busiest cockfighting center in Metro Manila. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer.

Derby host James Uy has invited some 25 big-time cockers and breeders so derby buffs can expect some 63 matches. Derby starts at 7 p.m.

At stake is a cash prize of P500,000 while entry fee is P15,000.

Official entries must be submitted today, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

According to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano, the special 2-cock *ulutan* is slated every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, where the first five champions stand to receive P8,000 each and the remaining champions, P6,000. Registration fee is pegged at only P1,100.

Negros 6-cock tilt on tap

COCKFIGHTING aficionados are assured of first-class encounters in Negros Coliseum's ``First Ampil Bros., Hinlo and Yulo Promotion 6-Cock Derby" which will blast off at 7 p.m.

Hosts have assembled a tough cast of participants that include *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Vic Yu and Mandaluyong Group, Raymond Velayo, Wacky Salud of Cebu, Tony Yu and Art Panoncillo, Gerry Fevidal, Tony Abendanio, Joseph and Mike Miranda, Marshal Tan, Mike Tiu, RJ Mia among others.

The hosts guarantee the whopping top prize of P1.5 million. Entry fee is P14,500.

Action continues tomorrow and on Sunday, with over 100 participants in a slambang confrontation.

The derby is supported by Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo.

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Rallies banned at Munti

THE BUREAU of Corrections has banned rallies at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa to prevent inmates from getting abusive. BuCor director Ricardo Macala yesterday said he would no longer allow mass actions, even if such activities were staged in support of prison policies or personalities. *Christian Esguerra*

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'Pyramid' queen falls

SANTOS: She has P5 billion?

By TJ Burgonio

CORNERED, conquered, she offered to return all the money, over P5 billion, that she had amassed through the infamous "pyramid" investment scam.

"Everything is intact," declared Ma. Teresa Santos yesterday hours after she was recaptured in Quezon City following a nationwide manhunt.

Her family-run firm, MTS Trading, allegedly pulled the P5-B swindle on 12, 000 soldiers, police, including officials and government agents.

A "pyramid scam" is an investment swindle in which some early investors are paid off with sums put up by later investors, thus encouraging more and bigger risks.

Santos was arrested at an apartelle in Proj. 7 at around 6:30 a.m. by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, and Intelligence Group.

"We just knocked and she came out to open the door. That's when we served the warrant," said Chief Insp. Vicente Medenilla, leader of the arresting team and CIDG camp commander who was one of the scam victims.

Santos' arrest came after a month-long manhunt operation against her in Mindanao, central and northern Luzon.

She was nabbed last Dec. 23 and on Jan. 13 based on Medenilla's charges for issuing bouncing checks, but she managed to post bail.

A local court in Pili, Camarines Sur issued an arrest and bench warrants for her on the basis of additional charges of qualified estafa which Medenilla lodged against her and 10 others.

Local Government Secretary Joey Lina said that the MTS Trading managed to lure police and military officers, NBI agents and civilians to invest their money with

PYRAMID/ A26

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- Marurot Gang leader arrested A26
- DOJ to ask for Strunk's arrest A26

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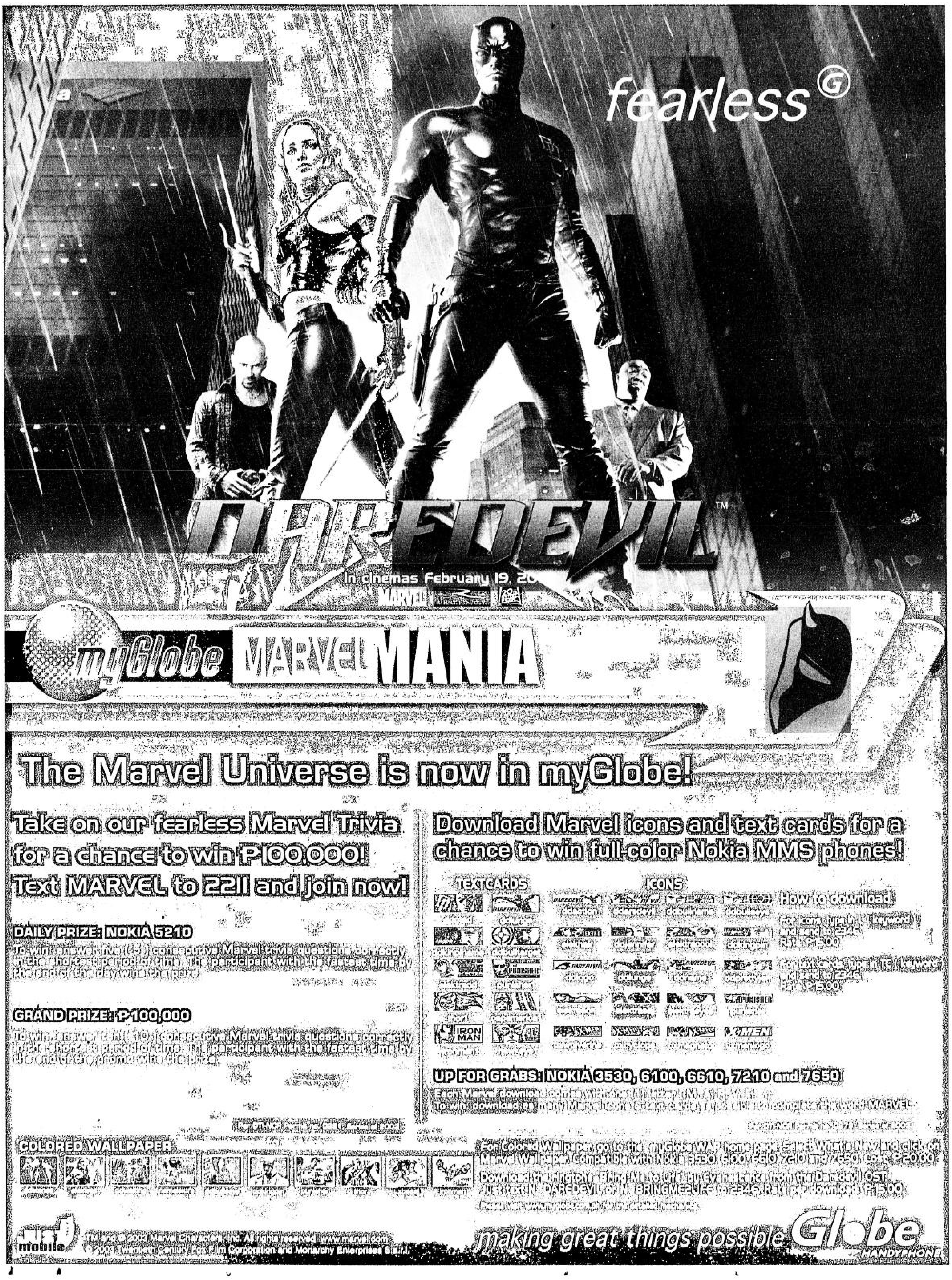
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Curfew will keep children safe, says NCRPO chief

By Alcuin Papa

OFFICIALS of the National Capital Region Police Office yesterday called on local executives to impose a metro-wide curfew for minors in an effort to reduce street crimes in the metropolis.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco made the call following a directive issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo to reduce street crimes by 20 percent and ordered the Philippine National Police to intensify its drive against petty crimes and lawless elements in the country by closely coordinating with local chief executives and barangay officials.

"I'm calling on all Metro Manila mayors and city councils to consider implementing curfew hours for minors and issue ordinances that would limit the movement of our youngsters in the streets," Velasco said. "This will not only help our law enforcement authorities in their fight against criminality but will also ensure the safety our children."

He also supported the implementation of a curfew in Manila and Marikina for minors aged 18 and below.

"The effort of the Marikina and Manila local governments to implement peace and order in their respective jurisdictions, particularly the imposition of curfew hours for minors, has proven to be effective in their drive against street crimes," Velasco said.

He noted that the crime rate in the cities of Manila and Marikina has dropped significantly after a curfew was implemented.

"By declaring curfew among minors, we do not only help the parents promote the value of studies on their children as they will have no more reason to go out in the wee hours but also discourage them to be involved in vices and other illegal activities," Velasco stressed.

He said the rest of the Metro Manila mayors should follow suit, adding that he would impose safeguards against abuse by law enforcers.

The NCRPO chief said he would meet with the other mayors to solicit their support for a curfew in their areas.

But even if it has its advantages, the proposed curfew on minors should be thoroughly threshed out by the police officials and mayors before it is enforced, according to Local Government Secretary Joey Lina.

Lina yesterday also allayed fears of some people that the curfew-related abuses committed during the 20-year martial rule of Ferdinand Marcos would be repeated in case a curfew is imposed in the metropolis.

"It will have to be processed," he said. "It means that Deputy Director General Velasco (of NCRPO) will have to discuss this matter with the various mayors of Metro Manila."

The issue will be tackled at one of the Metro Manila Mayors' meetings this month, Lina said.

He said there was "wisdom" in enforcing curfew, citing the experience of Manila where crimes involving teenagers have dropped following the imposition of curfew in the city.

But he stressed at a press briefing in Camp Crame that "the proposal has to be processed, and the bases have to be clearly spelled out."

Lina also doused fears that numerous abuses committed by the military while enforcing curfew during Marcos' time would be repeated if ever curfew were imposed this time.

He said authorities would make sure that no abuses will be committed during the implementation.

"In that sense, it will be different," Lina said.

An activist during his college days, Lina recalled some human rights abuses by the military during Martial Law.

"Some were given passes, there was favoritism, and some people caught during curfew were harassed, and money was extorted from some," he said.

"We'll do our best that those incidents of excesses will not be committed if the curfew proposal is adopted," he said.

Harurot Gang leader, 9 others arrested

By Jerome Aning

POLICE arrested the suspected leader and nine alleged members of a group of robbers tagged as Harrurot Gang, so called because of their practice of riding on motorcycles as they prey on their victims and then speeding off on their fast vehicles.

Rogelio "Tike" dela Rosa, alleged leader of the gang, and his wife Dolores were arrested last Feb. 18.

Suspects Roel "Popo" dela Rosa, 31; Rafael Cordero, 21; Joseph Fermejo, 33, and Allan Lim, 39 were arrested in San Pedro, Laguna last Monday.

Police found on them three pistols, a shotgun, P40,000 and two stolen cars–a blue Mitsubishi Lancer and a Honda Civic.

Earlier, suspects Marvin Baleda, Jaime Cabuno, Joel Quijjano and Antonio Reyes, were nabbed after a shoot-out with police.

Senior Insp. Leopoldo Mangilinan, head of the Western Police District's criminal investigation and detection unit, yesterday presented the suspects to Mayor Lito Atienza. Mangilinan recalled arresting Rogelio for robbery-snatching 20 years ago.

The suspects are facing dozens of robbery and car theft cases in Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Pasig and Mandaluyong.

Mangilinan said they were able to track down the suspects from descriptions of their victims and some of former gang members.

FROM TOUGHIE TO PUTTY Tondo police station 2 commander Col. Elmer Jamias could only cringe in embarrassment when President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the station unannounced last Wednesday to see for herself what Jamias had done so far to rid the streets in his jurisdiction of petty criminals. The President had ordered police to reduce by at least 20 percent the crime rate in the country. To worsen his discomfort, Jamias did not have a picture of the President in his office, a standard practice in government offices. But he had a big photo of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza hanging on a wall, along with a poster of a movie on Jamias' life that touted the police official as the Barako ng Tondo (Tondo's tough guy). In front of the President, however, the toughie became a nervous cop who did not get his act together.

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FEB. 28 FRIDAY 422-9877

Chinese gets life for drug peddling

By Agnes E. Donato

A CHINESE was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of drug peddling in 1999.

In his seven-day decision, Judge Teodoro Bay of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 86 found Eugene Ho Chua of Fookien, China guilty of violating Section 15 of Republic Act 6425, or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Judge Bay also ordered Chua to pay a fine of P500,000.

Court records showed that Chua was arrested during a buy-bust operation conducted by the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in the morning of February 20, 1999.

Police arrested Chua after he handed P03 Eulogio Bueñaflor, who acted as buyer, a grocery bag containing metamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, at the corner of Banaue Street and Del Monte Avenue, Quezon City.

Police also found on Chua at least two kilos of shabu.

DOJ to ask US for Strunk's immediate arrest

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JUSTICE department will ask the United States federal government to immediately arrest Roger Lawrence Strunk to prevent him from evading prosecution.

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas N. Gutierrez said in a news briefing that Strunk could be provisionally arrested while the Philippines is preparing for his extradition.

But Gutierrez said Strunk, principal suspect in the murder of his wife, actress Nida Blanca in November 2001, could voluntarily return to Manila to face the murder charges that had been filed against him and Philip Medel Jr. with a Pasig court last week.

"Even if we ask for provisional arrest or extradition, it's possible to withdraw (these requests) if Strunk is willing to come here and face (his) case," Gutierrez said.

The DOJ's move to have Strunk arrested came after Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 156 Judge Alex Quiroz issued an arrest warrant against Strunk last Feb. 21.

The warrant was issued on the same day that Strunk's lawyer sought the junking of the murder case in a 73-page motion to dismiss the case.

Judge Quiroz has yet to act on the motion, but Strunk's lawyer Alma Mallonga had assured the Department of Justice that her client was not running away.

"He's not moving anywhere. He is staying in the same place," she told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

"He told me in a telephone conversation that he will do everything to (prove) that he is innocent," she added.

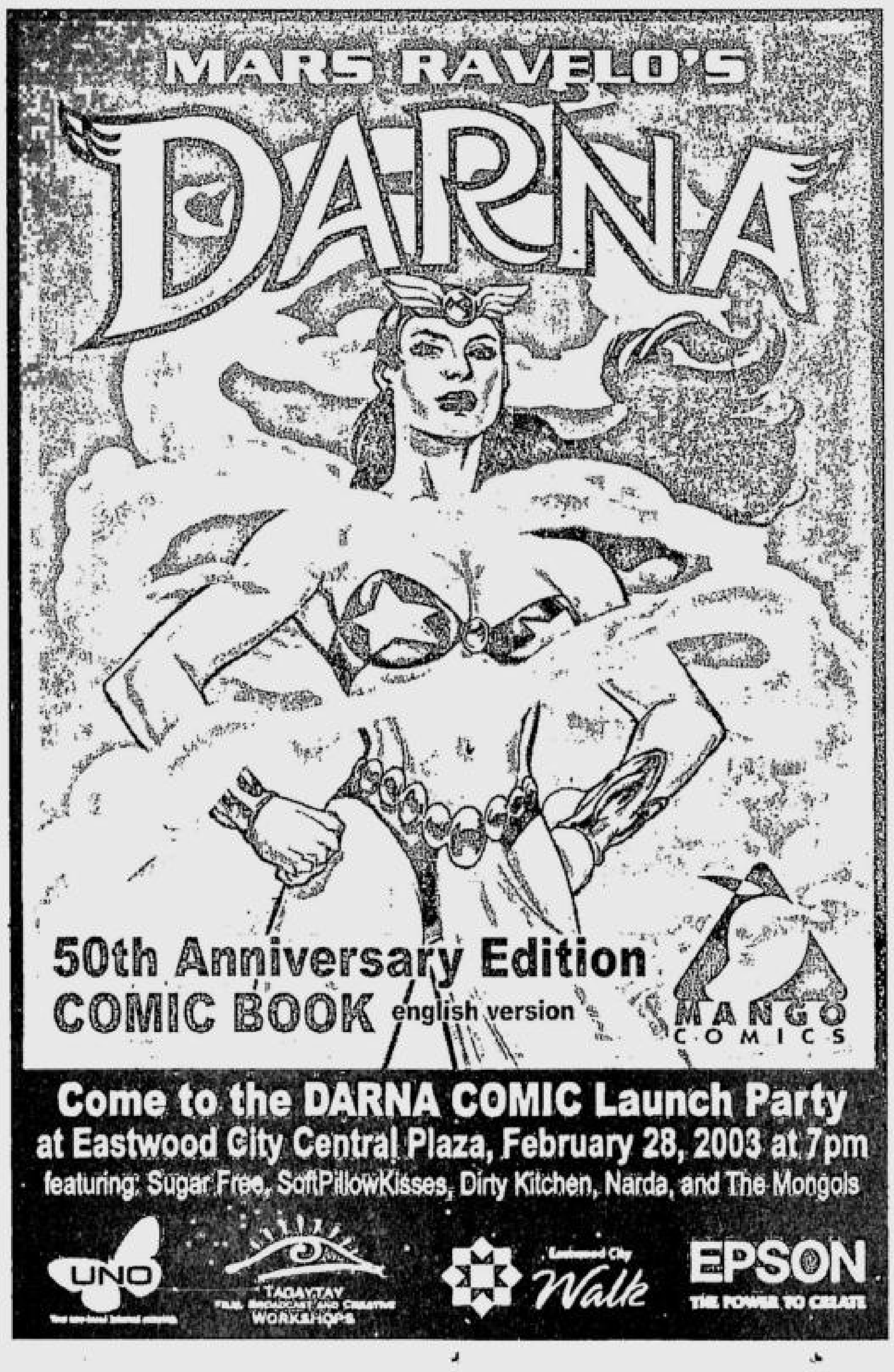
Mallonga also stressed that the extradition of Strunk, who is in California, USA, was not automatic.

"Any extradition (request) will undergo judicial scrutiny by competent US authorities," she said.

Gutierrez told reporters that the DOJ had two options under the RP-US extradition treaty.

"We can ask for his formal arrest or we can ask for his formal extradition."

Resorting to a provisional arrest is faster because the DOJ is not required to submit relevant documents to the US DOJ.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'Pyramid'...

From page A25

them by offering a 20-percent return of investment each month.

Through its three years of operation, the firm has victimized 12,000 people of an estimated P5 billion, he said.

Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, CIDG deputy director, who together with Lina presented the suspect to the media, admitted that he was one of the victims, although he said he invested only a small amount.

Rey Campanilla, lawyer for Santos, claimed his client was capable of repaying her clients, adding that she had wanted to yield to authorities, but had feared for her safety because of "threats on her life."

So far, Santos was the seventh in her firm to be arrested. Nabbed earlier were her alleged cohorts identified as her daughter Vanessa Manalastas and her husband Troy; Bernardo Sisno, PO1 Redentor Almoite and Ernesto Lavarias of the Special Action Force, and PO2 Vladimir Garcia of the Police Security and Protection Office.

Police are hunting down four more suspects: Santos' husband SPO2 Orlando Santos, who went AWOL from the Marikina police; their son Paul Kenneth; SPO4 Alex Cacananta, who also went AWOL from the Marikina police, and Maricel Belarmino.

Medenilla started investing in MTS Trading in Februrary 2002 after another investment firm, Multitel, where he had some investments, closed shop.

An owner of two security agencies, Medenilla hinted that he was lured by the 20-percent return of investment every month offered by the MTS, and invested some P20 million.

From February to October, he regularly received the P4-million interest of his investment. Then in November, he started receiving checks from Santos that later turned out to have no funds.

So far, Medenilla said he had a total P43 million collectibles from Santos, P30 million of which came from other investors.

"I had to sue her because the riders (other investors) were running after me," he said.

Medenilla lodged 24 counts of violation of Batas Pambansa 22 (the law on bouncing checks) against Santos, and one count of qualified *estafa* against her and her 10 cohorts before local courts in Camarines Sur.

Moving out

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

TODAY is the last day of the month. There are a total of ten months left in the year.

Sorry, but this is the end. This extended pinch-hit stint as Metro editor ends today.

Have been working the desk for over two months now.

Starting tomorrow, I resume to lead the life of an ordinary staffer, who pretends to write a column whenever space and time permit.

I feel bad, but I find no sane reason to stay and supervise the section after an unforgivable boo-boo.

***

In fact, I had to apologize to our amiable Readers' Advocate, topnotch lawyer Raul Palabrica, after he quietly questioned me on who wrote that story about the head of the Government Service Insurance System being ill and due to be replaced.

Not me, of course.

But I've no choice but to go.

***

Actually, I could've just kept quiet and pretended nothing serious had happened.

An explanatory rejoinder had been printed Wednesday to stress that Winston Garcia, allegedly suffering from kidney trouble that required daily dialysis, is in the pink of health, his hold on the GSIS reins at its firmest.

OK, things appear to have returned to normal.

But I'm not about to clear myself.

***

"The lowest of the lowest below-the-belt blow," the GSIS chief had branded the unfounded allegation about his health and post. It was, he added, the product of a twisted mind.

He added that the continued black propaganda campaign against him was the handiwork of a powerful group working double time to remove him from his job.

He also appealed to media to thoroughly check sources before printing stories that could cause what he called irreparable consequences.

***

Sorry, but I've also let my profession down.

How? By blindly accommodating a friend (he will remain unidentified) who passed on to me that press release begging that I use it, pleasssse.

Of course, he also assured me that the story had solid basis.

Well, common sense dictates that I should've checked on the veracity of the details in that PR masterpiece.

Maybe I had been too trusting?

Anyway you call it, I move out now.

I cannot allow myself to be a liability to my paper. I love this team.

METRO BRIEFS

US flag torn at PUP

MILITANT students at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila yesterday tore a 6-yard long United States flag to protest Washington's insistence to make war on Iraq even without the approval of the United Nations Security Council. Yesterday marked the second day of the pro-peace protests by PUP students, who were joined by school faculty and administration. Student organizations allied to the militant youth group Anakbayan claimed US President George Bush's main motivation of war was nothing more than Iraq's oil resources. Anakbayan chair Apo Alvarez branded Bush arrogant for declaring the US would bypass the UN Security Council and for threatening the life of a fellow head of state. Anakbayan and other cause-oriented groups will hold a rally for peace at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park this afternoon.

Jerome Aning

NBI agent shoots trader

A NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agent and his companion are in hot water for allegedly shooting a businessman during a traffic altercation in Paco, Manila late Wednesday night. Special Investigator III Augusto Eric Cipriano, 37, and Tato Ampatuan, 52, a businessman, are being investigated by the Western Police District's special operations group. Cipriano is also in trouble for presenting an expired permit to carry and possess firearm for his Glock 9-mm pistol with serial number DU-096. Victim Judy Agustin, 26, married, a resident of 2040-D F. Muñoz St., Paco, remains confined at the Ospital ng Maynila due to a lone gunshot wound in the throat. The altercation happened after the Toyota Corolla (UUH-309) of the suspects sideswiped the victim's motorcycle at the corner of San Marcelino and Escoda Streets. SOG operatives who later responded to the incident brought the wounded Agustin to the hospital.

Jerome Aning

More drug users fall in QC

SEVEN suspected drug users, now detained at Camp Karingal, have been rounded up in different parts in Quezon City. Central Police District director Sr. Supt. Napoleon Castro identified the arrested as Joel Evangelista, 32, of 18 Ilocos Norte St., Brgy. Ramon Magsaysay, Bago Bantay; Enrique Herrera, 44, of 13 Apollo St., Brgy, Del Monte; Julita Lozada-Buhay, 31, of 154 Tendido St., Brgy. San Jose; Nepthalie, 29 and Rolando Gomez, 31, both of De Dios Ext., Brgy. Bagong Silang; Carl Garcia, 20, of 22-H General Segundo St., Brgy, Sta. Cruz; and Aldwin Francisco, 24, of 1 Col. Ozamis St., Brgy. Sta. Cruz. The arrests were an offshoot of President Macapagal Arroyo's call for intensified campaign against criminality in the streets. The other day, the CPD paraded 29 small-time crooks and two drug addicts who were arrested in the renewed campaign.

Alcuin Papa

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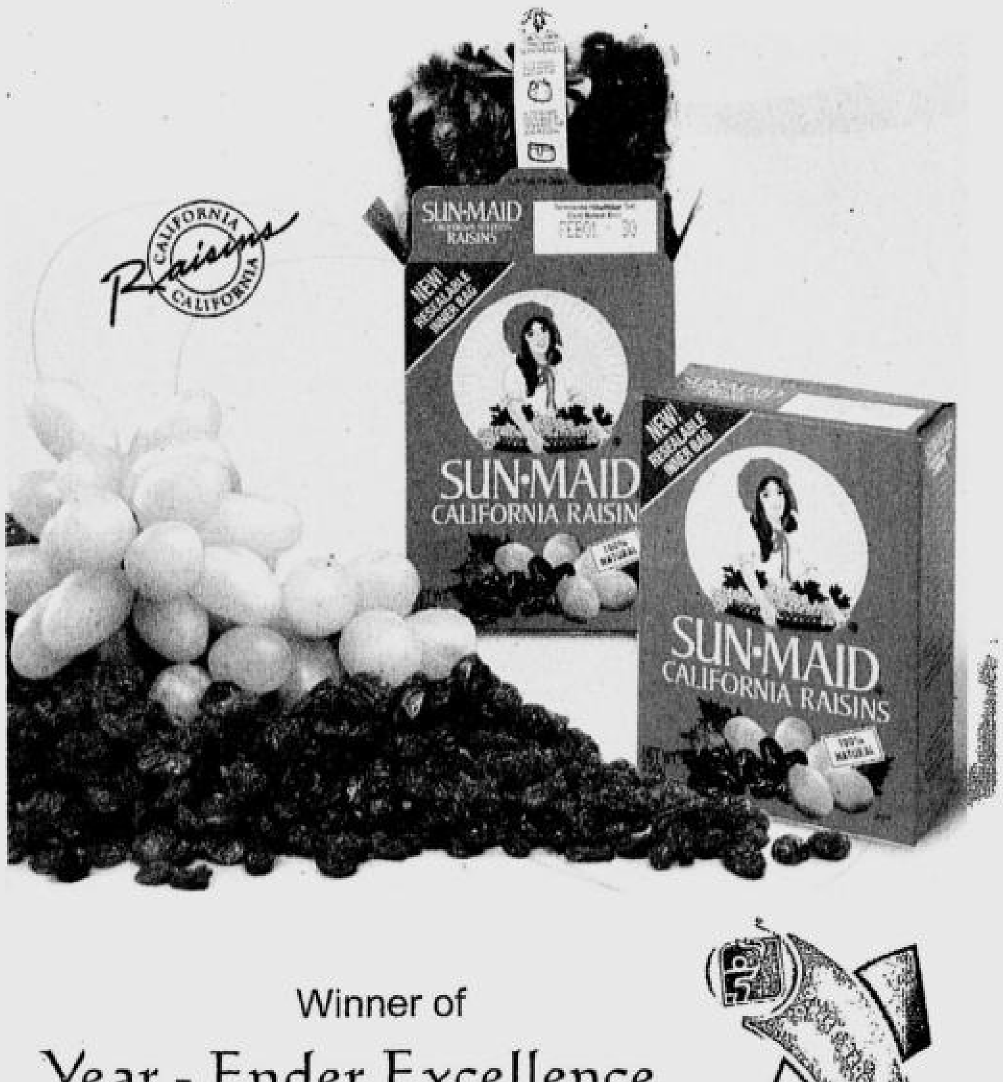

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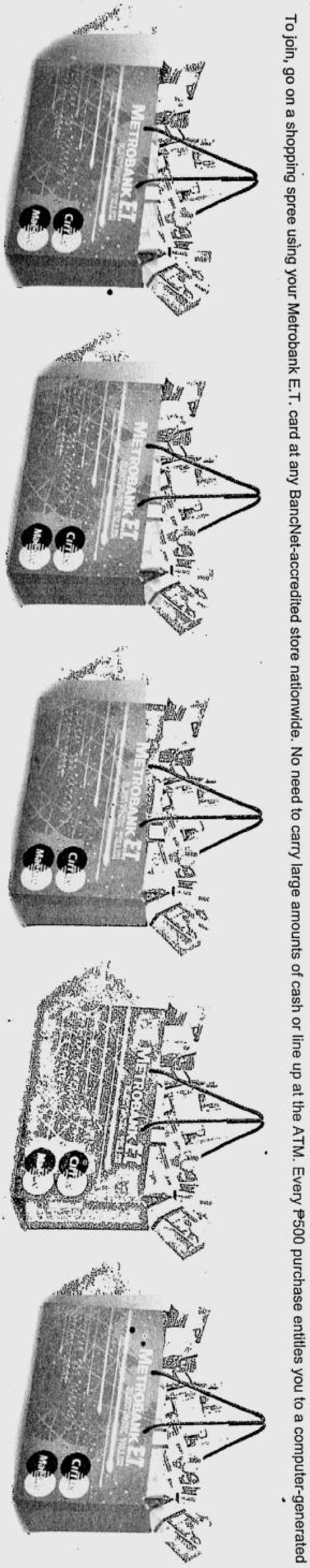

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

'DAREDEVIL'

Comic-book epic seizes serious, sacred issues

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

OUR HERO is wounded in the movie's opening scene. His body wrapped around the cross of a church steeple, he struggles to hold on before crashing down prostrate on the altar. A climactic battle scene will later take place inside the church, and the hero's nemesis will get stigmata-like wounds on both his hands, his main weapons for death-dealing.

Throughout the movie, whether our hero is perched atop a Manhattan skyscraper brooding with architectural gargoyles or is in a confessional seeking absolution from his priest-friend, he struggles with the morality of his crime-fighting (he calls himself the people's guardian devil). He says, "Can one man make a difference? There are days when I believe, and others when I have lost all faith."

For a comic-book adventure that's packaged to be another one of those movie-marketing franchises, "Daredevil" is surprisingly steeped in theology. It's a moody, atmospheric film that has more than visual flash and dizzying action to keep the average viewer engaged.

The virtuoso martial arts sequences and the seamless digital effects do indeed make the movie great to look at. But it's the hurts and fears, the childhood wounds and lost loves that make it fun to talk about.

Those heartless teachers who confiscated our comic books when we were kids never understood our fascination for the comic books. They saw nothing more in them than senseless and graphic violence. They belittled our superheroes as pop-culture disposables, as borrowed trappings from American colonialism.

Deep medium

But there are very good reasons why comic books have universally transcended cultural barriers, why they are more than a childhood rite of passage and are still able to make us experience shivers of delight in our adulthood.

Underneath the mythologies of superheroes are the ongoing theological battles between good and evil, battles that are waged between humans and within each human. Graphic novels, as comic books sometimes deserve to be called, take themselves as seriously as the ones without pictures, and their fans believe the medium is deep and portentous.

BEN'S MARK. Affleck plays another one of his typically charismatic and sympathetic characters.

"Daredevil" is introspective and captures the distinctive tone and style of a superhero epic. Fans of comic books may like that. But it's also an exciting movie that non-fans can thoroughly enjoy without knowing anything about the source material.

The movie is effectively paced with a good balance of exposition, character development and action. Credit goes to writer/director Mark Steven Johnson ("Simon Birch") for adapting the comic book characters created by Bill Everett, Stan Lee and Frank Miller.

The first 15 minutes is devoted to explaining how the boy, Matt Murdoch (Scott Terra), found his superpowers and purpose in life. An accident blinded Matt with toxic chemicals when he was 12 but somehow made his other senses super-sharp. Through them he's able to develop amazing acrobatic abilities and fighting skills. When his father, an aging boxer who's trying to make a comeback, is killed by the Mob for refusing to throw a fight, Matt vows that he will "seek justice one way or another."

Good baddies

And so the grown-up. Matt (Ben Affleck) does. He becomes a respected lawyer by day, one who unrealistically only takes up clients who are innocent (he can literally sense guilt), and Daredevil, the mysterious, costumed bad-guy basher of Hell's Kitchen in New York City, by night. Inevitably, he crosses paths with the city's most notorious criminals, the brawny Kingpin (Michael Clarke Duncan) and his psychotic henchman, Bullseye (Colin Farrell), who can make deadly weapons out of anything: paper clips, pencils, even peanuts!

Both villains are quite good. Thankfully, they're also not the usual caricatured criminals looking to take over the world. They only want the city and its neighborhoods, and therefore are rightly pitted against Daredevil who is more like a community protector than savior of humankind like Superman.

Duncan's imposing physical presence (he's 6-foot-6, 340 lbs. and could pass for a WWF wrestler) and deep baritone voice help him portray Kingpin credibly, although in the comic book, Kingpin is actually white. Duncan really looks like someone who could throw Daredevil around (and he does). He makes Affleck (who's not a small guy at 6-foot-4) look scrawny even if the latter is wearing his muscle-padded costume.

But it's Farrell's over-the-top performance that takes the cake. He brings a wild-eyed, wicked-smile panache to playing Bullseye, a villain who has no second thoughts about killing an innocent old woman just because she became too chatty on a long flight. There is a strand of sly wit in his deliriousness that makes Farrell both scary and delightful. And every man or boy can relate to his yearning for a costume.

Dazzling Elektra

Probably the best feature of the movie is its love story. Jennifer Garner (TV's "Alias") who plays the Amazonian Elektra Natchios, is a dazzler. You hear a buzz of excitement going through the audience when she walks in the favorite café of Matt and his best friend and law partner Foggy Nelson (Jon Favreau, who has perfect comic timing).

Matt is no bumbling fool when not in costume. He is in fact the typically charismatic and sympathetic Affleck character we have come to know onscreen. He approaches Elektra without the slightest hesitation, even using his blindness as leverage in finagling a date. There's immediate chemistry and more than a little eroticism in Matt and Elektra's verbal sparring.

But the classic screen moment comes shortly after, when they're really, physically sparring and trying to decide whether to sleep together or kill each other.

The production design is striking and the special effects impressive. Despite being set in modern times, the movie has a noir-ish feel to it. Its dark and gloomy colors actually help make Daredevil's acrobatic swoops from buildings and other digital stunts look believable. The filmmakers do a wonderful job of making us see how Matt sees through his other senses. The scene where Matt is able to visualize Elektra's face through the sound of raindrops is a beauty.

The movie is a perfectly captured comic-book spectacle that actually pushes some serious and sacred issues for consideration. I only wish those teachers who confiscated my comic books in school would see "Daredevil," and enjoy it. Then I would have had my justice, one way or another.

MUSICAL ROYALTY. The once and future couple uses their real-life relationship as a plot, and the audience laps it up.

MARTIN AND POPS

The concert as soap opera

By Vladimir S. Bunoan
Contributor

REVIEW

AS INDIVIDUAL concert performers, "King" Martin Nievera and "Queen" Pops Fernandez are among the most seasoned ones the country has ever produced. But "Martin and Pops in Concert" proved to be even greater than the sum of their individual talents.

While the couple has long ceased to be real-life husband and wife, the present dynamics of their relationship have given a new dimension to their onstage chemistry. Reunion concerts, whether foreign (Eagles and Fleetwood Mac, for instance) or local (The Dawn), are by nature interesting for both audiences and performers. But in the case of Martin and Pops, it is not just a simple case of absence making the fan's heart grow fonder.

Both can be seen regularly on the Sunday noontime show, "Asap." And they have very active solo careers, particularly Martin, whose post-separation popularity has defied common logic and karma.

But despite their visibility, the idea of holding a reunion concert was undoubtedly exciting and special for fans. Since Pops made a surprise appearance in her ex's birthday concert at the Ultra Football Field in February 2001, the road towards this onstage re-coupling had already been cleared. Moreover, the ecstatic response to their satellite-linked stage reunion last December—she was at the Ultra for her annual birthday shindig while he was at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)—showed that the couple's magic could still cast a spell on audiences.

That magic proved to be even more dazzling at the Araneta Coliseum last weekend. Apart from confirming their considerable power at the box-office and among sponsors, "Martin and Pops in Concert" perhaps marked a new chapter in their fabled partnership. Indeed, the concert's centerpiece is a musical take on the popular primetime TV soap operas, but based on the couple's own story.

Show biz fodder

In this rather lengthy but well conceived medley, where song lyrics were cleverly used in place of dialogue, Martin and Pops narrated their widely documented love story from the days of "Penthouse Live" to the present. It began coyly enough (represented by songs like "The Last Time I Felt Like This," "Can We Just Stop and Talk Awhile," "Ocean Deep") and led to marriage ("Be My Lady," "Perfect Combination," "King and Queen of Hearts"). But it was rocked by infidelity ("Tukso," "Babaero," "I Will Survive," "Enough is Enough"), leading to a bitter and highly public separation ("Separate Lives," "Someone That I Used to Love," "Don't Give Up On Us").

The medley ended with Lani Hall's "I Don't Want You to Go." Still, they envisioned a happy ending and sealed it with "The Promise."

Martin and Pops were never shy about using their relationship as entertainment fodder. Even during their cold war, they—Martin especially—would make direct or indirect references to the state of their hearts. There's Pops singing "I Made It Through the Rain" or Martin joking about his indiscretions.

Indeed, cynics may find it unsettling that the couple continues to feed on the romantic illusions of fans or that their onstage suggestion of a possible real-life reconciliation may turn out to be really all for show.

But whatever the motivations behind such onstage displays of lingering affection, "Martin and Pops in Concert" was undeniably entertaining. It was easily the best show the couple has ever staged since they appeared in "Twogether" at the Ultra in the mid-1980s, even eclipsing their rather emotional "High on Love" concert, also held at the Araneta Coliseum.

Electric atmosphere

From the moment they made their entrance and marched down centerstage, holding hands, to the swelling strains of "Always and Forever," the title song of their 1986 movie, Martin and Pops looked every inch the royal couple of the concert scene.

For fans, this was the moment they had long been waiting for. And as the couple segued to "Endless Love," the atmosphere at the Big Dome was positively electric.

Pops, despite a funny Cher-like rubber bodysuit complete with a hood, was absolutely gorgeous with her glamorously curled hair.

Indeed, when she ribbed her ex, *"Nagsisisi ka na ba?"* while flaunting her radiance, you couldn't help but conclude that Martin was indeed stupid to let this woman get away.

The concert featured mostly duets Martin and Pops had done in previous shows and in Penthouse Live like "Flames of Paradise," "How Do You Keep the Music Playing," "Maybe" and "Never Gonna Let You Go."

THE CONCERT/A30

Joey: I'm alone but never lonely

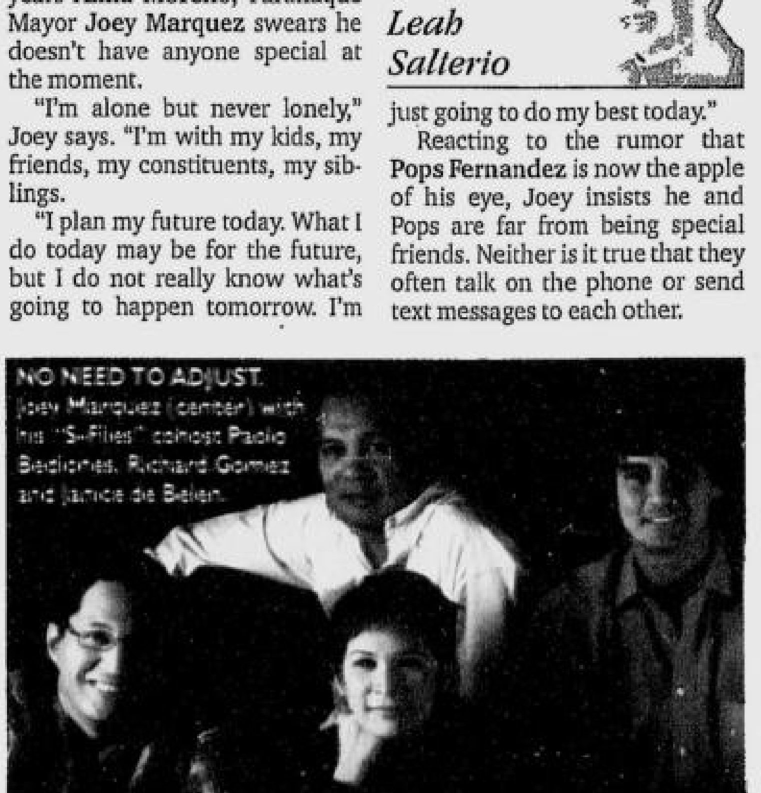
SHOWBIZ TIDBITS
Leah Salterio

A MONTH after the breakup of his relationship with **Kris Aquino** and more than a year after he separated from his wife of 12 years **Alma Moreno**, Parañaque Mayor **Joey Marquez** swears he doesn't have anyone special at the moment.

"I'm alone but never lonely," Joey says. "I'm with my kids, my friends, my constituents, my siblings.

"I plan my future today. What I do today may be for the future, but I do not really know what's going to happen tomorrow. I'm just going to do my best today."

Reacting to the rumor that **Pops Fernandez** is now the apple of his eye, Joey insists he and Pops are far from being special friends. Neither is it true that they often talk on the phone or send text messages to each other.



NO NEED TO ADJUST. Joey Marquez (center) with his "S-Files" cohost Paolo Bediones, Richard Gomez and Janice de Belen.

"I have many friends, but there's no one special at the moment," Joey says.

Asked if he's ready to fall in love again, the 42-year-old actor-politician retorts, "You mean 'Am I ready to get hurt again?' I always equate love with hurt or pain. You do everything to make your partner happy, but you realize in the end what you did is never enough, so that can be disappointing.

"Sometimes, we also cry for the wrong reason and we love the wrong person. Yet, you ask why and you end up telling yourself, 'I love him' even without any reason.

"Once you look for someone to love, you won't find her, *pero papatirin ka niya* when the right time comes."

Joey prefers to treasure the fond memories he had with Kris.

"I'd like to remember only the good ones," he says. "I'd like to treasure our memories together and keep them to myself, so when we see each other again, one look at each other and we know what that means."

Joey discloses the ideal partner for him at this point is somebody who will love his children.

"No woman should compete with my children because she will only lose," he says.

At the moment, Joey's options are to do good for Parañaque, work hard and earn more "so I can cope with the 10 percent additional VAT over the 20 percent withholding tax."

As far as his show biz career is concerned, Joey finds new challenge in hosting GMA 7's show biz-oriented show, "S-Files," with **Janice de Belen**, **Paolo Bediones** and **Richard Gomez**. Joey appears live on "S-Files" every Sunday, on top of his top-rating sitcom also on GMA 7, "Kool Ka Lang," which airs Tuesdays.

Joey is not new to hosting "S-Files." When Paolo went on leave from the show to host one season of "The Great Globe Adventure," Joey became the pinch-hitter.

He also did a week-long guesting stint on "Unang Hirit," where he traded repartees with **Daniel Razon**.

"But I realized it's easier to stay up late than wake up early," Joey grants.

Fortunately, Joey doesn't have a problem blending with the three hosts of "S-Files." He has known Richard and Janice for a long time and they are all han-

JOEY/A29

Change of image

WHEN **Colin Farrell** first made his mark in the movies, it was as a young leading man. But **Steven Spielberg's** "Minority Report" made viewers see Farrell in a radically different light when the ace director cast the young actor as **Tom Cruise's** top nemesis.

Farrell did so well as an unconventional villain that he got swamped with many more offers to go the nasty route onscreen again. He picked what he felt was the best of the lot, and can now be seen making life miserable for **Ben Affleck** in his latest starrer, "Daredevil."

In the film, Farrell plays Bullseye, a psychotic assassin blessed with perfect aim. His signature weapons are an exotic lot—metal throwing stars called *shuriken*, and anything else he can get his hands on, including pencils, playing cards, or even paper clips!

Next up for Farrell is the film "SWAT," where his co-star is **Samuel L. Jackson.** And, in **Joel Schumacher's** new film, "Phone Booth," Farrell finally goes back to "good guy" mode, playing a clueless man who answers a ringing pay phone—only to discover that there's an assassin on the other end of the line who will shoot him if he hangs up!

Feedback

FROM **Sonia Z. Reyes:** "Our group of Intergrated Marketing Communication Students at the University of Asia and the Pacific is concerned about some indecent billboards in Metro Manila.

"The pervasive nature of billboard advertisements worries us because children are exposed to them; they depict women in a demeaning manner, as objects of pleasure; and they are distracting and potentially dangerous to motorists."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"We believe that the marketing messages of products can be communicated without resorting to indecency."

MCO concert

AT 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 28, the Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank present a concert featuring pianist **Nena del Rosario-Villanueva** and violinist **Oscar Yatco** at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The program: Sonate in G Major for Piano and Violin Op. 30 #3 by **Beethoven**, Chaconne from the partita in d-minor for Violin solo by **Bach**, Etude, op. 10 #5 (Black key) for Piano solo and Waltz op. 42 in A Flat Major Piano solo by **Chopin** and Sonate for Piano and Violin by **Franck**. Call 818-1403.

New TV show for Edu

FOR months now, we've been urging TV executives to give **Edu Manzano** another talk show. Well, it looks like ABS-CBN is finally giving Edu a new and well-deserved talkfest on TV next month—not really straight talk show, but a show biz magazine program.

We can live with that. The important thing is to get Edu talking on TV again, because he does it very well. The out-and-out talk show should just be a matter of time.

Edu's co-hosts on his new show are **Alfie Lorenzo** and **Cristy Fermin**. Currently Edu is also a mainstay on two other Channel 2 programs, "Magandang Umaga, Bayan" and "Ok, Fine, Whatever."

As for Edu's movie career, it's also warming up with his featured role in "The Cory Quirino Kidnap," which topbills **Ara Mina**.

Movies on TV

FILMS on the HBO channel, Thursday, Feb. 27: 1:45 p.m., "It Could Happen to You." 6:45 p.m., "The Perfect Storm." 12:50 a.m., "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

Friday, Feb.28 at 3:45 p.m., "Real Genius." 5:30 p.m., "Cousins." 7:30 p.m., "American Outlaws." 2 a.m., "Journey to the Center of the Earth."

On the Cinemax Channel: Feb. 27 at 6:30 a.m., "The Guns of Navarone." 1:45 p.m., "Sabrina." 5:15 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Urban Rampage."

Feb. 28 at 8:15 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Crash Course." 10:45 p.m., "The Unsaid." 3:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: "Snap Shot."

'SOMETHING STUPID' PRESENTORS
Two international leading brands—Mossimo and Rado of Switzerland—present the post-Valentine show, "Something Stupid (Called Love)," 8 tonight and tomorrow night at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. Performers' are Kyla, RJ Rosales, Dessa, The CompanY and comedian Jon Santos. In photo are Mags Deles-David, marketing manager of Mossimo, with Jason Alvarez, retail manager of Rado-Switzerland.

Text your vote for 'Star of the Night' finalist

VIEWERS can help their favorite "Star for a Night" finalist win the P1 million grand prize on March 1 by texting their votes.

Globe and Smart subscribers can text in the name of their choice until seven minutes after the last finalist has performed during the grand finals night that will be held at the Ultra tomorrow, March 1.

The text votes tallied will comprise 30 percent of each finalist's final score.

To cast their votes, subscribers can simply key in S4AN <space> <name of finalist> and send to 2966 for Globe/Touch Mobile and to 269 for Smart/Talk n' Text. Only correctly spelled votes will be counted.

The correct names of the finalists to be used in texting the votes are the following: Roxanne, Angeli Mae, Anegeline, Musica, Carlo, Sarah, Jason, Mark, Mailyn, Maureen and Florie Mae.

Subscribers may receive a list of the correctly spelled names of the finalists by texting S4AN List and sending to the same numbers.

"GANDA" BRAINS. Hairdresser Ricky Reyes acknowledges the applause of the crowd.

DANCING GRANNY. "Ganda ng Lola Mo" image model Gloria Romero sways to the beat.

Joey: I'm alone but . . .

From page A28

dled by the same talent manager, **Douglas Quijano**.

Then, too, Joey has played golf with Paolo in Goma Cup celebrity tournaments.

"There's no one new in the show that I don't know, so there's no need for me to adjust," Joey says.

Even if he is now hosting a show biz talk show, Joey insists he is not spared from controversies or intrigues.

"Actually, I even have an advantage now because whatever controversy I get into, I can readily talk about it and explain in the show," Joey says. "I will not ask them to tone down any intrigue which concerns me. I'm not exempted from anything."

CONTRAVIDA ROLE. Amy Perez joins the GMA 7 soap series, "Habang Kapiling Ka."

Amy on GMA 7

AMY Perez lost no time in switching channels. Starting tonight, the erstwhile host of ABS-CBN's daily noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" will be seen as the contravida on GMA 7's soap series, "Habang Kapiling Ka."

Amy plays Dr. Divine Ogata, the scheming and evil wife of a Japanese Yakuza member. She meets **Tonton Gutierrez** and falls in love with him, but also manipulates the lives of the people around her.

The role is a dream-come-true for Amy, who had long wanted to play a mean character in a TV drama.

"I once played contravida in 'Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan' on ABS-CBN, but they couldn't make my character really bad because they were considering my hosting job on 'MTB'," Amy shares.

"I have dreams as an actress and this contravida role in 'Habang Kapiling Ka' is part of my dream. It's a new challenge for me.

"As a TV host, I also want to help women, like what **Mel Tiangco** or **Inday Badiday** does."

Amy, who is a single mother to her five-year-old son **Adrielle Benedict** or "Adi" (with singer **Brix Ferraris**), breaks the routine of hosting a daily noontime show, which she did for the past 15 years.

"Now I can enjoy waking up late," she says. "Being in a new network means a new beginning for me, new relationships, new people."

She is thankful that her TV director **Khryss Adalia** and everyone else in the cast of "Habang Kapiling Ka," is supportive of her drama debut on GMA 7. She received the offer to star in the soap series while she was in her hospital bed and down with flu.

"Not everyone is given this kind of opportunity," Amy asserts. "God knows that I have to work because it's not easy being a single mom. But I realized I am a survivor. After the storm, here comes the sun (for me)."

Ricky Reyes launches nationwide beauty campaign with a bang

GUESS who gamely sauntered onstage in a black leather ensemble with half-naked dancers?

Veteran actress Gloria Romero, that is. And only Ricky Reyes can make the queen of Philippine movies do that.

In an unprecedented move in the beauty industry, the topnotch hairdresser Ricky Reyes recently launched "Ganda 2003" at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo.

"Ganda 2003" is a nationwide beauty campaign that urges Filipinos to look beyond physical beauty, whoever they are.

Hence, Gloria's face will be seen on billboards with the tagline, "Ang ganda ng lola mo 'noh." That is just one of campaign's components.

The extravagant launch, directed by Floy Quintos, also featured the beautiful family of GMA 7 contract star Tanya Garcia (mom Cristy and two sisters, Tricia and Denise) who represent the "Gandang Pamilya" component.

"Click!" teenage stars Angel Locsin, Roxanne Barcelo, Trishia Roman and Sherwin Ordoñez represent the vibrancy of the youth for the "Gandang Barkada" component.

In gorgeous Ben Farrales masterpieces, true-blue Filipina beauty queens Marina Benipayo, Marilen Espino, Abbygale Arenas, Rachel Soriano, Gem Padilla and JP Abinuman glided onstage to illustrate what the real Filipina beauty is all about. "Ganda nila!" is their battlecry.

Ricky Reyes' signature model Ruffa Gutierrez would have appeared in this set had she not been in Istanbul preparing for her grand wedding to her Turkish beau Yilmaz Bektas.

The much talked about "Ganda ng lola mo 'noh!" portion surprised everyone when Gloria rode a big bike onstage and was greeted by enthusiastic cheers from the audience.

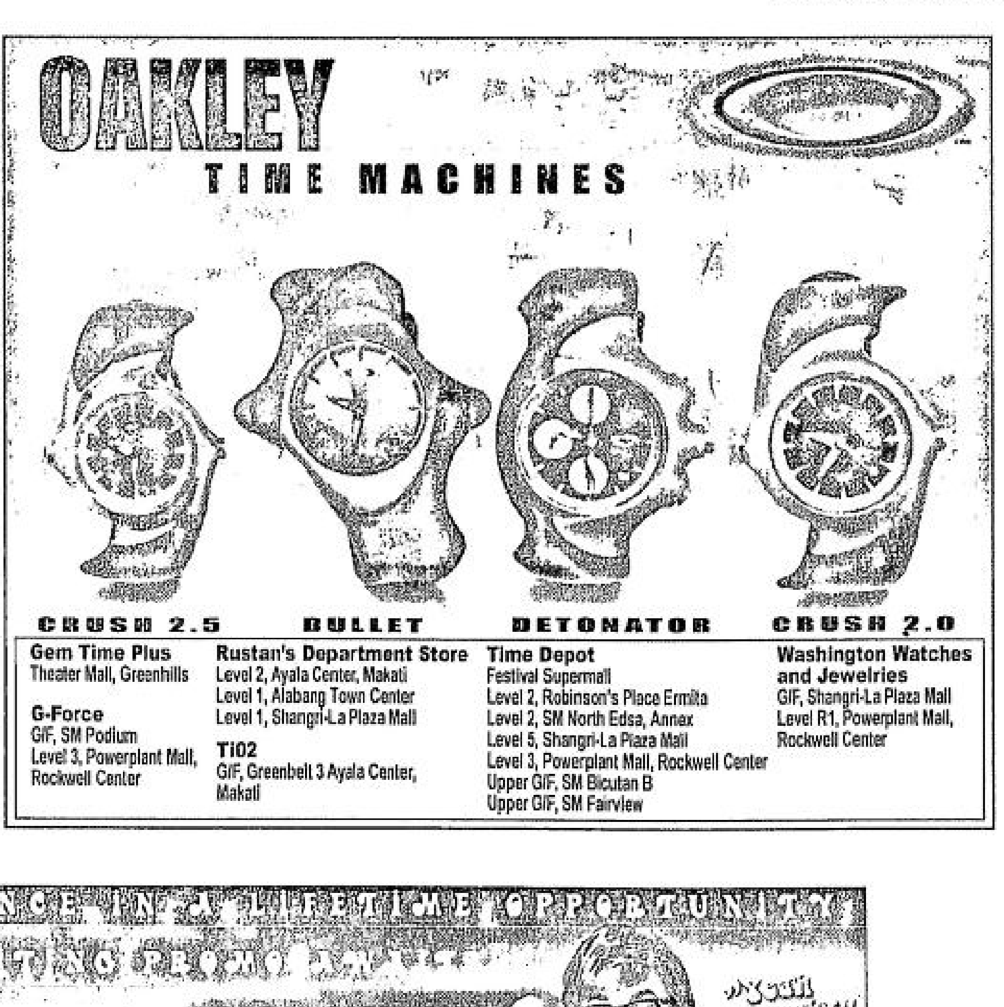
Having endorsed numerous consumer products in the past, from zippers to softdrinks, from butter to beauty soaps, Gloria is one of the few actresses who has aged gracefully and remains glamorous to this day.

People who know her will always consider her to be a beautiful person with a beautiful soul.

"Ganda 2003 is all about attitude, an individual's outlook in life, her value and how good she should feel about herself," Ricky shares. "I have always believed in this. It's true I have made countless people look beautiful but at the end of the day, it all boils down to one thing—the happiness and contentment of my clients. My achievement lies in making people feel good, not just on the outside but more on the inside."

Ricky Reyes' name has always been synonymous to beauty innovations and creativity with no fear. His beauty breakthroughs include the Zigzag, the Edging, the Whispers and the latest hair treatments that are now bywords—straight perm (rebonding), hair reborn and hair shine.

Ricky was also responsible for bringing one-stop salons closer to the people by being the very first to establish beauty parlors in shopping malls.



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G-Force
G/F, SM Podium
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Level 1, Shangri-La Plaza Mall

Ti02
G/F, Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center, Makati

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Festival Supermall
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Level 2, SM North Edsa, Annex
Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Level 3, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center
Upper G/F, SM Bicutan B
Upper G/F, SM Fairview

Washington Watches and Jewelries
G/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
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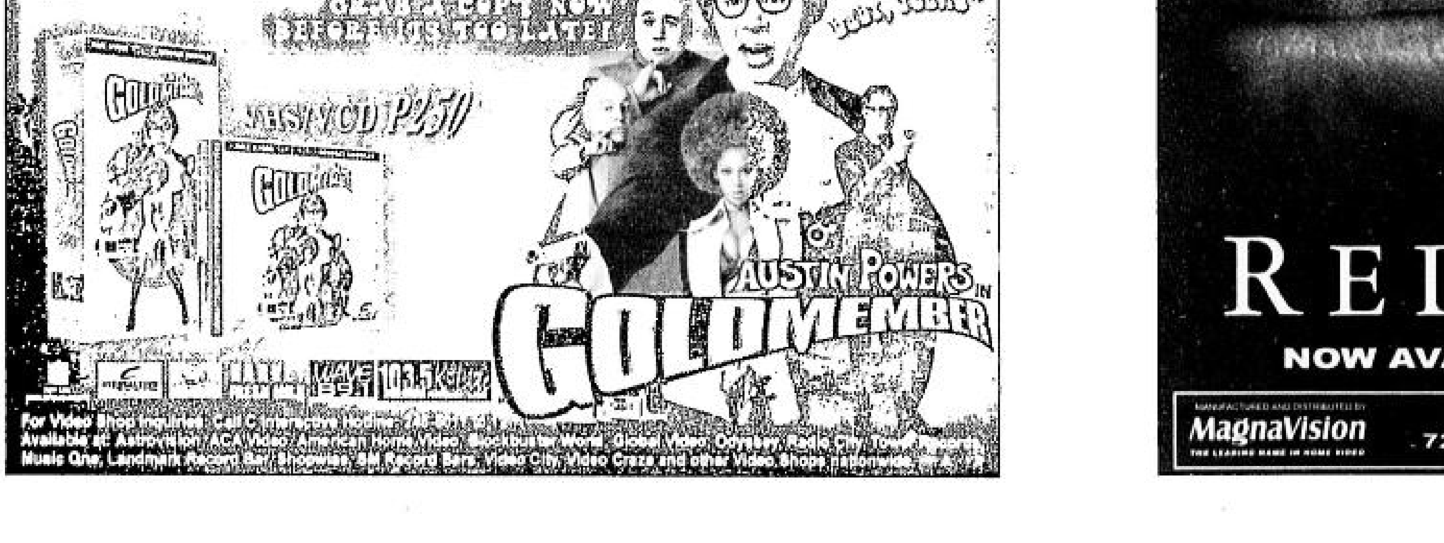
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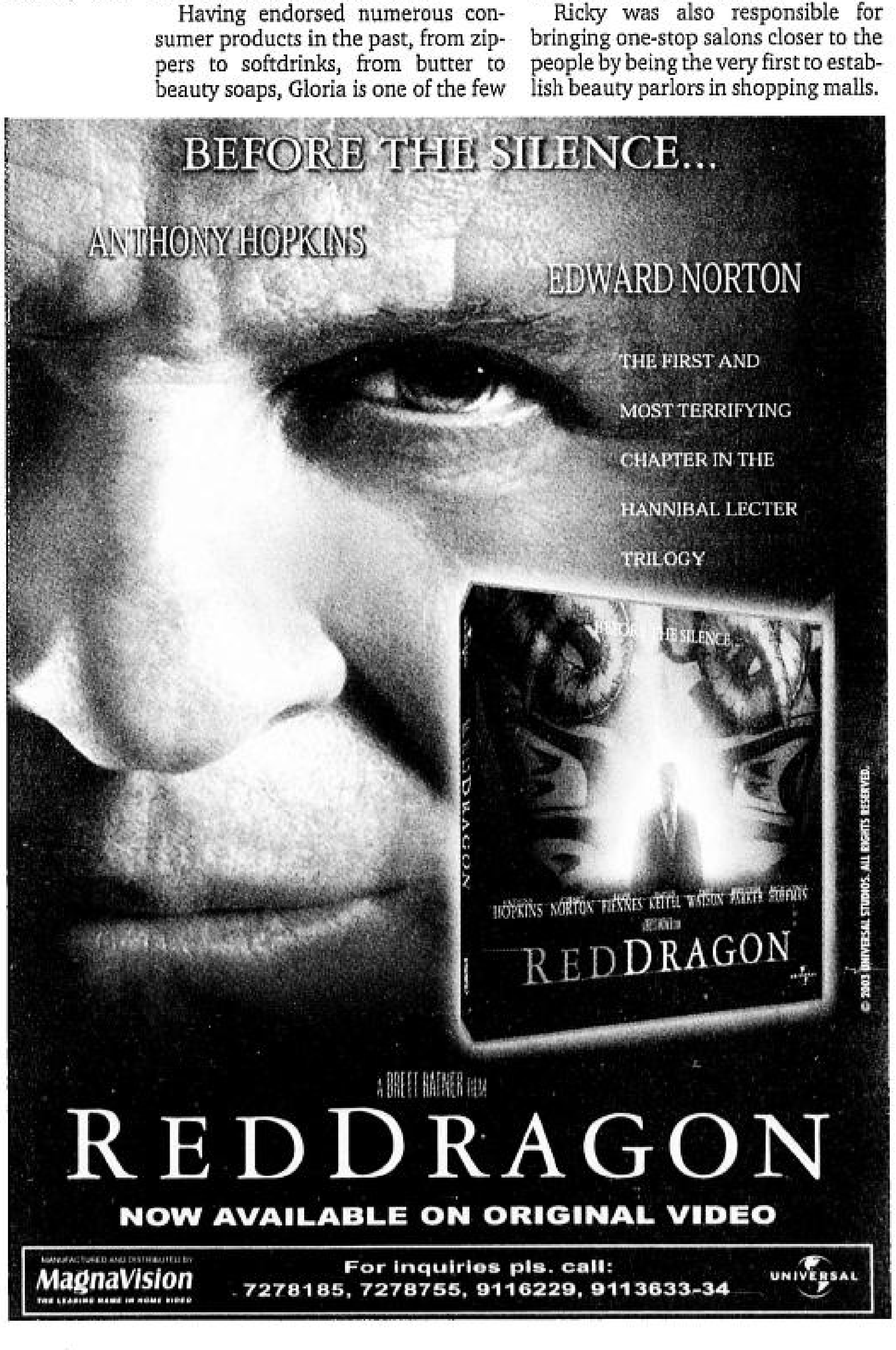
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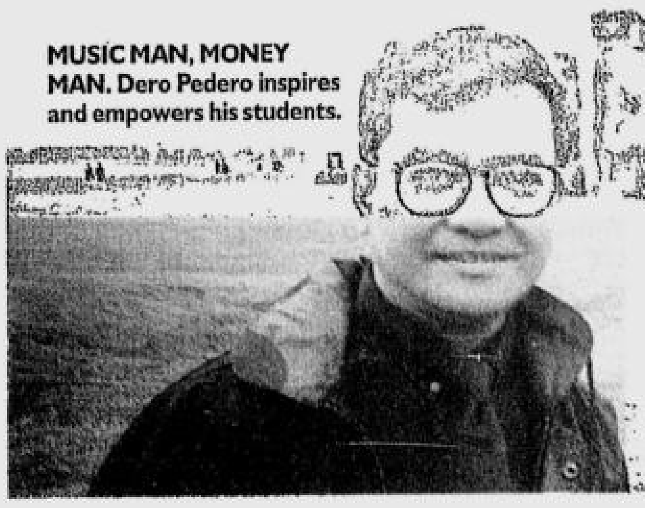

Show biz dropout sings songs of success

By Marinel R. Cruz

DERO Pedero, former singer and prize-winning composer, is teaching a growing number of people not how to make music but how to handle money.

One of them, Louie de Leon, has been having a hard time earning money these days, and he's a real estate broker. Having an even harder time is Joyce Aguilar who sells flowers, which are seasonal commodities.

Money problems prompted Louie, 49, Joyce, 31, and money market trader Tina Ramirez, 48, to join the seminar on money and prosperity conducted by Pedero, now known as a life-enhance guru "Money, Money! Secret Principles of Money and Prosperity" is a four-hour seminar on the universal principles, secrets, formulas and strategies of wealth-building.

Optimism

"I have no choice but to learn to cope with the difficult times," Joyce tells the INQUIRER just before the seminar begins one Saturday morning. "I know I have to make do with my meager earnings, but how?"

"It has come to a point where what I earn is not enough for my family anymore," says Louie.

"I have to learn everything there is about money if I want to succeed in my new business," says Tina.

The three are optimistic that after the seminar, "we'll be able to properly manage not only our earnings but our lives as well," one of them says.

Pedero describes the seminar as experiential. "You have to experience it firsthand," he says.

A class is composed of a minimum of 25 students and a maximum of 40.

Classes are usually held every Wednesday and Saturday.

Pedero usually starts the two-part seminar by singing his composition "Money is Funny": "Wanna lose your best friend very quickly? Don't agree to lend him any money!" He follows this up with a unique slide presentation on money and its social functions.

Attitude

"Money is more than just coins, paper bills and plastic cards," he says at the start of one such seminar. "It is an agreement among people to use a certain currency as a medium of exchange for goods, ideas, services and goodwill."

Occasionally, he quotes finance wizards and celebrities like Christine Dugas ("The leaner your spending today, the fatter your cushion will be tomorrow."), Kim Hubbard ("The safest way to double your money is to fold it over twice and put it in your pocket) and Napoleon Hill ("More gold has been mined from the mind of man than from the earth.").

Pedero concludes the first part of the four-hour seminar with a discussion on the proper attitude toward wealth, the secret formula for prosperity earning, and some techniques on spending and saving.

"The quality of your life and the lives of those you love depends on your money and prosperity," he says. "Knowing more about money helps you understand its true nature and principles. The more you know, the easier and faster you can get rich."

In the second part of the seminar, he discusses myths about money and finally gives out tips on how to earn more of it.

"People come out of my seminar with a clearer understanding of what money is," he says.

Winner

If Pedero knows money as well as he knows his music, then his "students" are in good, sure hands. For many years, he was a successful singer, producer and prize-winning composer. He wrote several commercial jingles and ballads like "Narito Ako," "Ang Lahat ng Ito Para Sa Iyo" and "Buhay ng Buhay Ko," which have become OPM standards. He also wrote the first Filipino rock opera ballet, "Tales of the Manuvu," and won the grand prize in the Metro Manila Popular Music Festival with "Isang Mundo, Isang Awit."

He dropped out of the live entertainment scene and turned his attention to writing a newspaper column and conducting his success seminars.

Pedero says he himself attended seminars conducted by top life-enhance coaches like Iyanla Vanzant, Steve Scott, Sark, Clive Davis, top Hollywood agent Jay Bernstein, advertising maverick Richard Kirshenbaum, and promotions specialist Barbara J. Winter.

According to Pedero's previous students, his most interesting, inspiring and empowering session so far has been his first seminar, "Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True," on the secrets, principles, formulas and techniques of personal success.

For more information, e-mail DeroSeminar@yahoo.com or text/call 0920-4053233.

JOHNNIE WALKER

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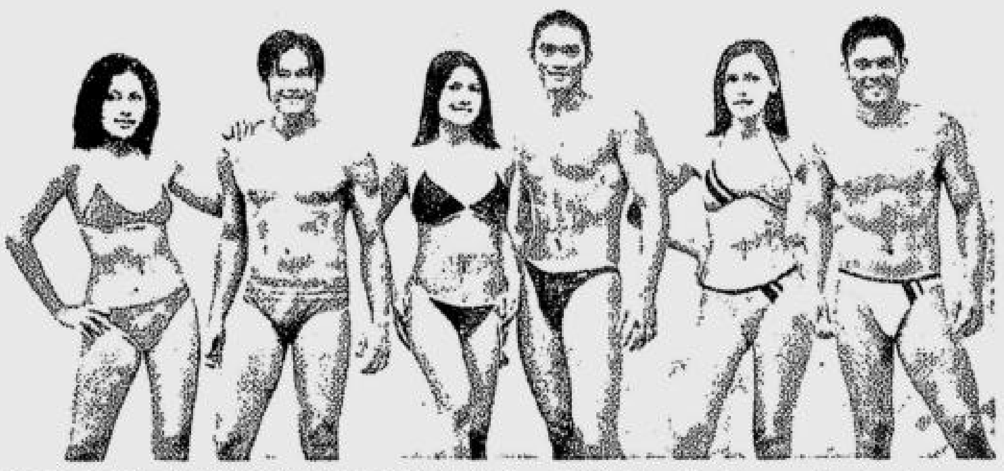

MOSSIMO BIKINI SUMMIT 2002 WINNERS. (from left) Edilyn Santillan and Jordan Herrera, first runners up; Ritchie Bingcang and Carlo Maceda, champion; April Tanhueco and Douglas Robinson, second runners up.

Mossimo Bikini Summit 2003

THE BIGGEST and most prestigious annual summer event, the Mossimo Bikini Summit 2003, is on.

Interested parties may now sign up for the contest, which will culminate in a grand, star-studded finals night on May 3 at Club Panoly Resort in Boracay.

The finals night will be taped-as-live and aired on RPN 9.

The Mossimo Bikini Summit has produced the likes of commercial models-turned-actors Carlo Maceda and Jordan Herrera, both of whom have done movies for Viva Films.

Bing Victoria, also a finalist of last year's search, will also be launched in a movie sometime in March.

Reigning Miss Manila 2002, April Tanhueco, was last year's second runner-up in the female division.

To qualify, men should stand at least 5'8" and women, 5'5". They must have proportionate bodies and pleasing personality.

The contest is open to males and females of all nationalities, including those with no previous modeling experience.

There will be three preliminary screenings for contestants scheduled on March 13, 14 and 15. Application forms are available at all Mossimo outlets nationwide.

Interested parties are asked to bring two recent colored photos, one full-body and one close up shot. Deadline for applicants is March 10.

Grand prize winners, one male and one female, will each receive P50,000 cash, P30,000 worth of gift certificates from Mossimo, a trip to Hong Kong for two and movie contracts from Viva Films.

There will also be cash prizes and gift certificates from Mossimo for the first and second runners-up.

The Mossimo Bikini Summit is a production of Cast and Crew and is presented by Mossimo and Club Panoly Resort Boracay.

Radio partners are Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9 dwTM, City Lite 88.3, 99.5 dwRT, 103.5 K-Lite, 105.1 Crossover.

For details and sponsorship, call Cast and Crew at 718-1032, 0916-5547792 or 0916-7424249.

The concert as soap opera

From page A28

The couple might have forgotten some of the blending since their vocal harmony was not as tight as before and there were some discordant moments if you listened carefully.

However, it must be noted that Pops has gained more vocal strength through the years and when their blending was in sync (as in their newer material like "We've Got Tonight" and "Kahit Isang Saglit"), they've never sounded better.

As in their previous shows, the concert was structured in such a way that each had memorable individual moments.

For Martin, it's a medley of Josh Groban songs that included "You're Still You" and "The Prayer" in which he showed full control of his vocal placements, while Pops did a mellow version of the Bryan Adams' hit, "Heaven."

In terms of structure, Martin's main role was to wow the audience with big ballads, while Pops kept the energy high with her dance medleys.

Brazen flirting

But a Martin and Pops concert is never really just about singing.

It is more about chemistry. In this regard, the couple was at their most engaging. Pops has become a lot more confident since their breakup, and their repartee gained significantly from this.

She now comes up with deadly zingers, driving Martin to come up with edgier lines. They brazenly flirted with each other and the innuendos were downright sexual.

After a kiss, Martin retorted, "I felt your tongue there," and at the end of a choreographed number with Pops on top of him, Martin started moaning. Martin even cracked a self-deprecating penis joke.

If this was indeed just an act, they should be credited for being so comfortable at playing charade. Their effortless banter was so effective that it gave fans more hope that there could well be a happy ending. The *kilig* factor is back with a vengeance.

The success of their reunion could mean that there'll be more joint concerts in the future. In a way, it's like a return to the old days, with fans wondering will they or won't they. For sure, Martin and Pops have rediscovered that at the very least they really do belong together on stage. Whether this extends outside the concert arena is a different matter altogether.

This musical soap opera is indeed just beginning another act. And it's lovelier the second time around.

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Mayor Jesse M. Robredo

It is a pleasure to share with you this special event, the blessing and inauguration of station DWQJ Home Radio 95.1. I wish to convey my deepest appreciation and warmest congratulations to the management, officers and staff of Aliw Broadcasting Corporation for this public service-oriented venture. DWQJ Home Radio is the latest in the countrywide FM- formatted network of Home Radio stations, covering Metro Manila and nearby places in Luzon and as far as General Santos in South. Indeed, we in Naga are very proud to host your latest station as you extend further your broadcasting activities. As a public servant, I am thankful that you provide opportunities for leisure and relaxation through your stations' timely newsbreaks.

I am confident that DWQJ Home Radio will be our effective partner in promoting the well-being as well as the social awareness of our kababayan in the Bicol region.

Welcome to Naga!

JESSE M. ROBREDO
City Mayor

My sincerest felicitations to Aliw Broadcasting Corporation on the blessing and inauguration of DWQJ-FM Home Radio 95.1 in Naga City.

Today is a fitting occasion for thanksgiving to the Lord. By operating your radio station in this city, you bring to the people of the Bicol region the quality programming for which Aliw Broadcast stations are known to millions of listeners nationwide. Your work of providing our people rest and relaxation from their daily tasks through music opens up opportunities for them to experience God's blessings.

As you play beautiful music over your station, may you elevate your listeners spiritually and intellectually. Through your station's activities, may you reinforce the positive virtues that allow our people to handle whatever hardships they face in day to day living.

Congratulations and God bless you as you start operations in Naga City.

Reverend Msgr. JOSE R. ROJAS Jr.
Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Caceres
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Naga City

TJ Manotoc will host Bb. Pilipinas coronation night

MANOTOC

IT'S TJ Manotoc, after all.

Contrary to the report published yesterday that TJ backed out from hosting this year's Binibining Pilipinas beauty pageant because of several commitments, the son of Miss International 1970 and Binibining Pilipinas title holder Aurora Pijuan and sportsman Tommy Manotoc, will host the 2003 coronation night on March 15 at the Araneta Coliseum.

It's TJ and not actor Richard Gomez, as what was mentioned in this section yesterday.

TJ will host the coronation night with former Bb. Pilipinas World Ruffa Gutierrez and commercial model Brad Turvey.

Uniprom chief operating officer Lucas Pasiliao said TJ was the first choice for the hosting job and not Gomez.

Pasiliao said it was the GMA 7 management that suggested Gomez to be one of the pageant's hosts during a meeting the two companies held recently.

GMA 7 won the exclusive rights to air the beauty pageant and was therefore given an option in choosing the hosts.

"But GMA informed us immediately after the meeting that Richard will leave for Australia on the day of the pageant so he cannot host the show," said Pasiliao. "We never really got to meet with Richard."

Pasiliao added that TJ recently signed a contract with the Araneta Group of Companies to formalize his commitment as pageant host.

Uniprom is the entertainment arm of the Araneta Group of Companies, producer of the annual Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant.

TJ will also host the presentation of candidates in the press conference on March 11 at the Araneta Center poolside. *Marinel R. Cruz*

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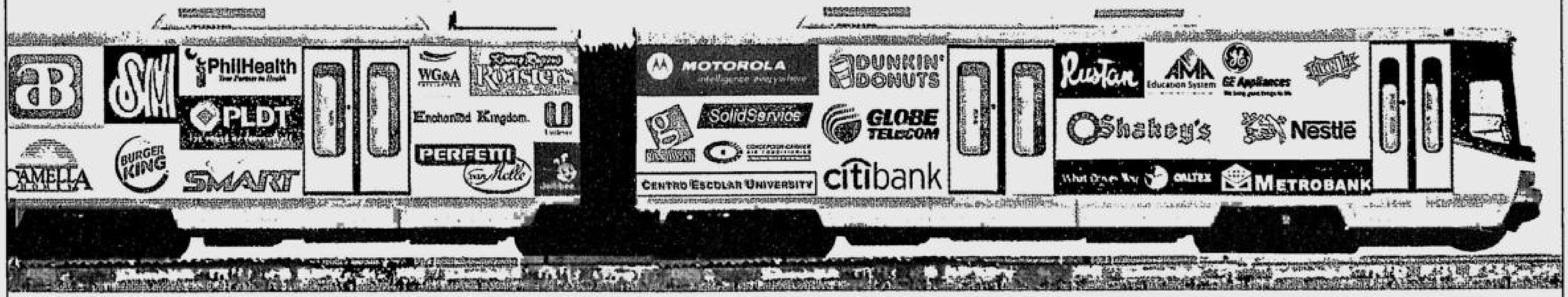
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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Lucio Tan, Henry Sy land on Forbes Billionaires List

TOBACCO magnate Lucio Tan and retail tycoon Henry Sy landed on the Forbes World's Billionaires List.

The 68-year-old Tan was 209th in the list with an estimated net worth of $1.9 billion, while Henry Sy, 78, was ranked 348th with a net worth placed at $1.2 billion.

Tan and Sy join other well-known names on The Forbes list that included Li Ka-Shing ($7.8 billion), Nobutada Saji and family ($7.1 billion), Walter, Thomas and Raymond Kwok ($6.6 billion), Fukuzo Iwasaki ($4.1 billion), Akira Mori ($4.1 billion), Robert Kuok ($3.4 billion) and Michael Kadoorie and family ($3.3 billion).

Treasury to resume auctions next week

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury has decided not to penalize the market by pushing through with the auction of P9.5 billion worth of treasury bills and P4.5 billion worth of bonds next week.

The decision came after Treasury officials met with government securities dealers last Wednesday to resolve a disagreement on the direction of local interest rates.

The Treasury canceled the sale of P3.5 billion worth of five-year bonds this week to show its disapproval of the fixed-income market's persistence to push local interest rates higher.

The Treasury notified the market yesterday that the sale of P4 billion worth of 91-day, P3 billion of 182-day, and P2.5 billion of 364-day bills will take place on Monday followed by the auction of P3.5 billion worth of two-year bonds and P1 billion worth of 20-year bonds on Tuesday.

Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the Wednesday meeting gave the government and the traders a chance to air their sides.

"There is no question that we need to align the rates but at a rate and pace that we feel are reasonable and acceptable and definitely not at 100 to 200 basis points per auction, which is what the market tried but failed to do in the last few weeks," Edeza explained.

Rates on medium-term bonds have dropped by more than half-a-percentage point since last week. For instance, the rate on five-year bonds stood at 11.75 percent yesterday in the secondary market against 12.5 percent early last week.

Edeza said, however, that he wanted to see a further drop in the secondary market rates before he would be totally convinced that the market had learned its lesson and start submitting "more responsible and responsive" bids for government securities.

Traders said investors only wanted to be compensated more for what they believed was increased risks in placing funds in government IOUs.

Meantime, the peso eased slightly to 54.375 to $1 from 54.35 on Wednesday.

The government is watching closely the movement of the peso as a continued drop in the local currency to the 55:$1 level would trigger higher debt payments and push up slightly the government's budget deficit this year, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho admitted yesterday.

Camacho said that for every P1 drop in the exchange rate, the government's debt servicing would increase by P1.5 billion. But this would be offset by an estimated P1.2 billion increase in collection of the Bureau of Customs.

Ricardo Tan is new PDIC president

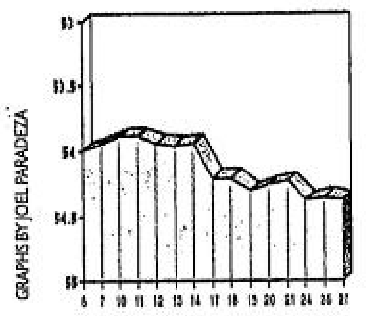
MALACAÑANG has named Ricardo M. Tan, former executive vice president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. as the new head of the agency.

Tan took his oath before Finance Secretary Jose

RICARDO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



FEBRUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P54.375 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb.27, 2003

¥ 117.02 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 27, 2003

GOLD: $354.80-355.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb.27, 2003

Feb. 27, 2003

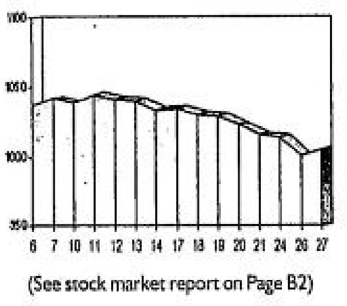
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.927128	1.000000	54.370000
Japan	Yen	0.007920	0.008542	0.464400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.467272	1.582600	86.046000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.118886	0.128230	6.971900
Switzerland	Franc	0.684732	0.738552	40.155100
Canada	Dollar	0.620983	0.669792	36.416600
Singapore	Dollar	0.534429	0.576435	31.340800
Australia	Dollar	0.563056	0.607312	33.019600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.459421	2.652731	144.229000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.247228	0.266660	14.498300
Brunei	Dollar	0.532894	0.574779	31.250700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000113	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021712	0.023419	1.273300
UAE	Dirham	0.252445	0.272287	14.804200
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.078600	58.643500
Argentina	Peso	0.292469	0.315457	17.151400
Brazil	Real	0.259192	0.279564	15.199900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134653	0.145237	7.896500
India	Rupee	0.019485	0.021017	1.142700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.244014	0.263193	14.309800
Mexico	New Peso	0.083983	0.090584	4.925100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523357	0.564493	30.691500
Norway	Kroner	0.130332	0.140576	7.643100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015985	0.017241	0.937400
South Africa	Rand	0.115349	0.124415	6.764400
Korea	Won	0.000783	0.000845	0.045900
Sweden	Kroner	0.109810	0.118441	6.439600
Syria	Pound	0.022075	0.023810	1.294500
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.026749	0.028852	1.568700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000581	0.000627	0.034100

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up on bargain hunting

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

FEBRUARY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS clawed higher yesterday as some bargain hunters shrugged off external and domestic worries to pick up selected stocks seen oversold at current levels, traders said.

The main stock index ended up 5.36 points, or 0.54 percent, at 1,005.63 points, after closing at a two-month low on Wednesday. The index dipped below the psychological support level of 1,000 momentarily to 999.54 during yesterday's trading, the lowest intraday mark since Dec. 23, 2002.

Turnover declined to P113.41 million against P205.95 million previously.

Investors have been spooked by the Middle East crisis, rising oil prices, a declining peso and a threat of sanctions from a global dirty money watchdog.

"We closed around the psychological support level of 1,000 points (on Wednesday) so probably some investors decided to bargain hunt in a few stocks," said April Lee-Tan, research head at Citisecurities Inc.

PLDT, one of the most heavily capitalized companies on the exchange, led the way, rising P5 or 1.75 percent to P290.

"That could have helped (the broad market) as well," Lee-Tan said.

Traders saw little likelihood of further sharp upside given the host of negatives hanging over the market.

"A rally will be difficult to sustain given the war concern, the budget deficit, the weak peso and the possibility of sanctions," said Lee-Tan.

The country is facing possible sanctions from the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force from March 15 if it fails to amend its anti-money laundering law in line with globally accepted standards. *Reuters*

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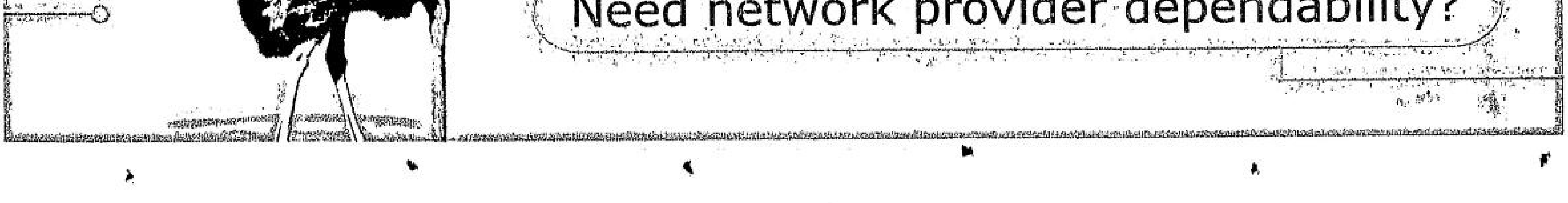
"Sa Diesel Max, matipid na, malakas pa humatak ang makina. Kaya nakakarami ako ng biyahe."
- Benito Dellosa, *Laguna*

Need network provider dependability?

ICTSI bags Poland port project

By Doris C. Dumlao

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. has bagged a deal to buy 100 percent of the state-owned Baltic Container Terminal Ltd. in Port Gdynia, the premier container terminal of Poland.

In a statement yesterday, Port of Gdynia chair of supervisory board for privatization Andrej Grzelakowski said ICTSI had met the relevant criteria and submitted the best bid for the BCT privatization.

ICTSI won over three other port operators who were shortlisted to participate in the bidding.

Grzelakowski said ICTSI could now start negotiating with trade unions associated with the port and complete the transaction by paying for the shares of BCT. The amount involved was not disclosed.

The acquisition of BCT will allow ICTSI to operate the container terminal under a 20-year lease contract with the Polish government starting in the middle of this year.

ICTSI senior vice president Thomas Falknor said the company was delighted with the opportunity to purchase the Baltic Container Terminal in Gdynia.

"We have extensive plans for the near-term expansion of the container handling capacity and efficiency, which will be implemented immediately after the transaction is complete," Falknor said.

BCT handled a total output of 250,000 twenty-foot equivalent units in 2002. Grzelakowski said the privatization was the first of its kind in Poland.

After the sale of ICTSI's foreign unit ICTSI International Holdings Inc. to a unit of Hong Kong-based Hutchison conglomerate, the Philippine-based port operator is scouting for new port concessions not only in Poland but in Canada, Guam and Papua New Guinea.

Prior to this new project in Poland, the only overseas business that remained with ICTSI after the sale of IIHC was the privatized port of Suape in Brazil.

RP seen overtaking India in contact center business

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES could overtake India in the contact center business within this year owing to its workforce's competency in the English language, an industry executive said yesterday.

Compared to a call center which serves through telephone calls, contact centers allow customer services using email, fax and short messaging service.

W. Sam Chandoha, chief executive officer of US-based Source One Communications, said in an interview that while there were 40,000 seats in contact centers in India, numbers did not mean leadership in the market.

Source One owns majority of Makati-based Source One Asia, which is a joint venture with the Lopez Group's Customer Contact Center or C-Cubed.

"The Philippines has performed so well in terms of quality and service that even if labor costs are higher here, people are more satisfied with customer contact services based here," Chandoha said.

He also said Source One Asia was looking into expanding its operations in the country starting next year after having recovered investments in just about a year.

"We are looking at Cebu as a possible location of a new contact center but it is probably still Manila," Chandoha said.

The official also said the firm was already having a positive cash flow and posting profits, but he declined to reveal numbers.

Also, company president David Shapiro said a rapid increase in the number of calls the company was handling indicated that Source One Asia could be using all of its 850 workstations in Eastwood City by year's end.

"As of yet, we are using 50 percent of our seats. We are handling 16,000 to 20,000 calls a day, which would reach about 23,000 calls a day next week," Shapiro said.

He added that the firm is expected to handle up to 50,000 calls a day by year's end when all of its workstations are manned.

Ricardo Tan is new PDIC president

From page B1

Isidro Camacho yesterday. He succeeded Norberto Nazareno who gave up his post in November 2002 due to health reasons.

Prior to his four years in PDIC, Tan also held various positions in private and multilateral lenders. He worked for eight years at the Asian Development Bank and four years at the Rizal Commercial and Banking Corp.

He was a senior economist at the Central Bank and was the CB financial attaché in London in 1965.

An economics graduate from the University of San Francisco, Tan holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics.

Tan retired from the PDIC in August 2001 and was PDIC consultant for the Export and Industry Bank takeover of Urban Bank until his new appointment.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 27, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	33,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	32	32	31.5	32	359,100
China Banking Corp.	650	660	650	660	1,110
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	23.5	23.5	22.75	22.75	54,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	27	26	27	74,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	16	16	16	16	18,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	410,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	220,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1270	1270	1270	1270	310
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	950	945	945	1,020
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	525	525	510	510	11,200
ISM Communications Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	320,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	285	290	282	5 290	114,450
Ivantage Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	5,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	34,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	62,200
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.6	1.64	1,115,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	1	1	910,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	1,130,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.38	2 38	2 36	2.36	566,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.25	15.7	5 14.7	5 15.5	220,900
RFM Corp.	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.68	60,000
Swift Food, Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.6	0.6	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	144,800
San Miguel Corp. B	65	65	65	65	226,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Ayala Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.28	2.3	65,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.18	2	2.18	31,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	3,180,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.1	127,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.12	195,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,750,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.0825	0.09	0.0825	0.09	1,600,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.135	560,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	3,020,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	110,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	8,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0 35	0 36	0 35	0 36	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	240,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.73	0.76	0.73	0.76	560,000
SPI Technologies, Inc.	14 75	15	14 75	15	326,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	2700	0.27	0.26	0.26	210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	3000	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	3700	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	16,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	850	0.085	0.085	0.085	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	1000	0.1	0 1	0.1	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Jollibee Warrants	15	15	14.5	14.75	21,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	870,000
Araneta Properties, Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	30,000
Cyber Bay Corporation	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0 87	1,690,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	3,100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	5.1	5 1	5	5.1	1,249,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.08	1.08	1 08	1.08	100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	180,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0 27	0.27	0.27	820,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0022	0 0024	0.0022	0.0024	118,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,174,540	18,013,175.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	28,237,650	82,468,505.00
PRO	7,439,000	12,094,150.00
Mining	11,100,000	445,400.00
OIL	118,000,000	260,200.00
GRAND TOTALS: 165,951,190		113,281,430.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	338.14	UP 4.06
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,466.78	UP 2.26
PRO	435.85	UP 4.08
Mining	1,147.85	DOWN 7.04
OIL	1.04	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	628.53	DOWN 3.96
Composite	1,005.63	UP 5.36

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22, NO. OF DECLINES: 23, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 74, NO. OF TRADES: 848

BIR wants employers to withhold payments

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday said the Bureau of Internal Revenue was studying a plan to require employers to withhold the value-added tax payments of professionals to facilitate the government's estimated collection of P8.6 billion yearly from this particular impost.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the BIR may require employers to register as a VAT withholding agent for professionals or those who earn purely on talent and consulting fees like lawyers, accountants, athletes, and members of the show business.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno reminded professionals that today would be the deadline for the VAT registration and that those who would fail to register would be penalized.

Camacho said the employers' withholding facility would make it more convenient for the individual VAT taxpayers to pay their dues.

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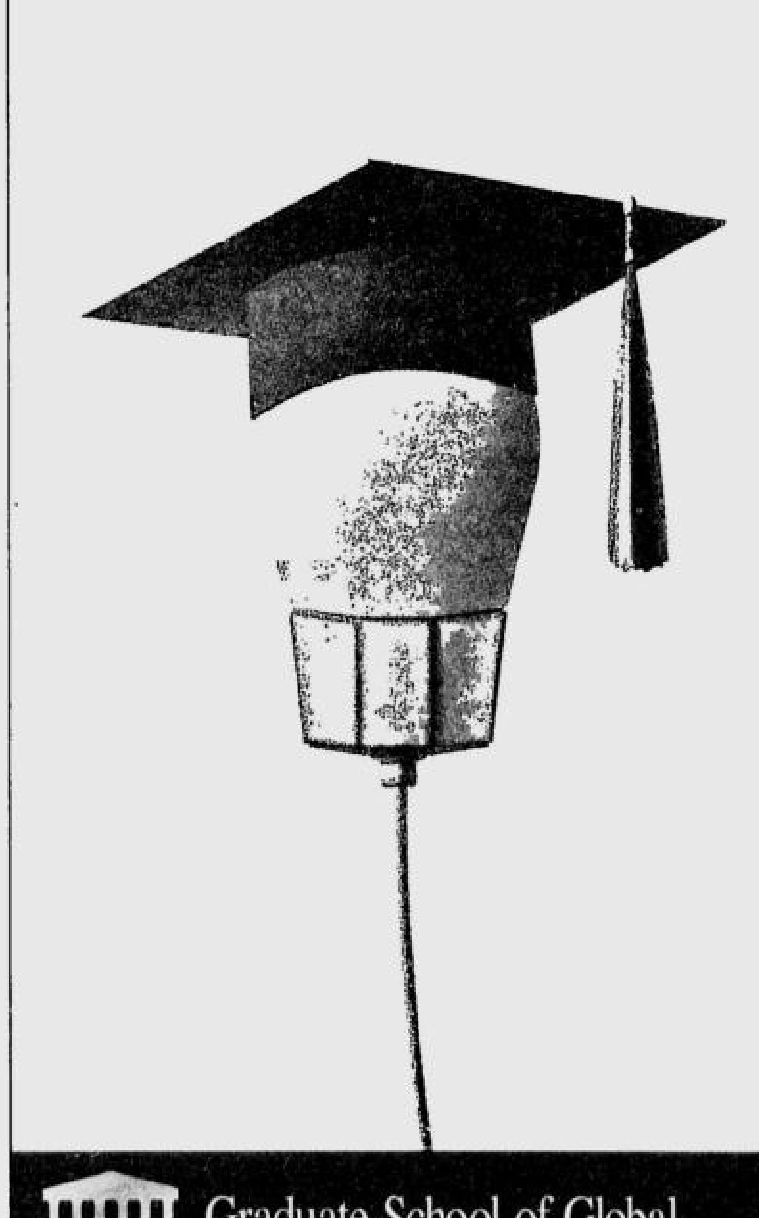
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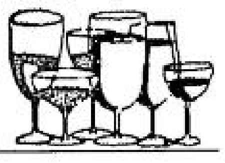

Victor C. Agustin

NOTWITHSTANDING the congressional agitations against the Washington-funded Agile program, American advocacy agents have embarked on another, more controversial crusade, this time to propagate US-supplied genetically modified seeds/crops among the Filipino farmers.

The Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI), the same Bethesda, Maryland-based consulting agency that is administering the US Agency for International Development's Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity (Agile) program, has again been tapped by USAID to win "increased public acceptance of these crops" against widespread European and left-wing resistance.

Organized by ex-USAID officers, DAI received a $4-million (about P217-million) contract from USAID for the so-called Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II, more modest than the $41-million (about P2.2-billion) spread that it earlier received from USAID to propagate Agile's programs within the Philippine bureaucracy.

In addition to the Philippines, DAI will help spread the acceptance of genetically modified crops in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and the African continent.

With the Cornell University providing research direction, the biotechnology project aims to create an "enabling environment for regulatory and legal authori-

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PETROENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Special Meeting of Stockholders of PetroEnergy Resources Corporation will beheld at the CASEROOM, YIAS, 5th Floor, Podium 4, RCBC Plaza Building, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City on 14 March 2003 at 2:00 pm.

The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

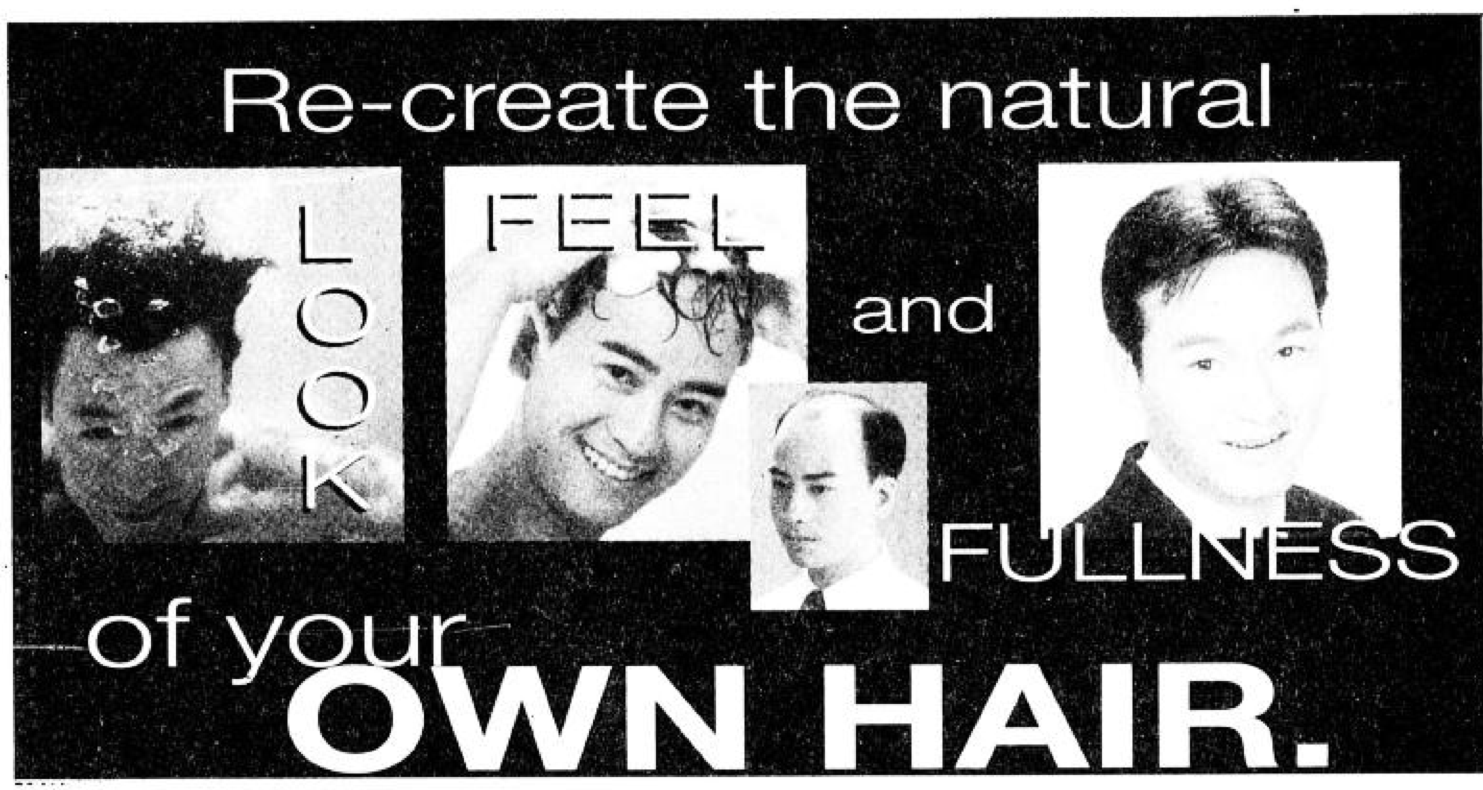
(1) Certification of Notice and Quorum;
(2) Presentation and Approval of the President's Report;
(3) Ratification of All Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management;
(4) Approval of Proposal to list PetroEnergy shares in the Philippine Stock Exchange;
(5) Approval / Ratification of the Decrease in Authorized Capital Stock from P1Billion to P330 Million;
(6) Approval / Ratification in the Increase in the Number of Directors from Five (5) to Seven (7);
(7) Approval / Ratification of the Amendments of the By-Laws of the Corporation;
(8) Other matters.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close business on 10 February 2003 as the Record Date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Special Meeting of Stockholders. Accordingly, only the stockholders of record as of Record Date will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

IF YOU DO NOT EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU MAY EXECUTE AND SUBMIT A PROXY TO THE OFFICE OF THE CORPORATE SECRETARY ON OR BEFORE 11 MARCH 2003.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

(Sgd.) GUIA SANTOS- QUA
Corporate Secretary



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UBS tags IMF as source of damaging statistics

By Clarissa S. Batino

UBS Warburg, one of the world's largest offshore banks, has tagged the International Monetary Fund as the source of economic data it used in a study that impaired the government's foreign bond issue last month.

In a letter to Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, UBS said the IMF was the source of statistics that showed the government embellishing its trade data.

"We hoped that these would demonstrate that while we were responsible for the timing of the report and its content, which was in line with the views held by a number of other investment banks, it was influenced by an unsolicited meeting which we had with the IMF on Dec. 18," UBS said.

The letter was signed by Rodney Ward, head of UBS' Asia Pacific operations, and Patrick O'Brien, head for debt capital markets.

"We apologized to the Philippine authorities. We wanted to place on record our earnest desire that, in future discussions with the IMF of this nature, your officials could make clear to us where your observation might contain information which are still in the course of assessing or the importance of which you are still weighing," UBS said in a separate letter to the IMF.

UBS was earlier shut out of the government's $2-billion fund management and underwriting business for at least a year for impairing the government's foreign bond issue last month.

It was also suspended from financial and foreign exchange and bullion dealings starting January.

Government sources said UBS had been excluded from being considered in any government-related financing activities.

According to persons familiar with the matter, the bank has been barred from managing some $170 million of the central bank's funds.

The money is part of some $2 billion in reserves that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas allows about 10 investment banks to manage.

A UBS study on alleged embellishments in the country's trade statistics was published by newspapers abroad in early January, a few days before the government began selling some $500 million worth of 10-year global bonds.

The adverse reports raised the cost of the government's borrowing by 25-basis points, or about P70 million.

Government officials have since been pressuring UBS to name its sources.

A source from the finance department said the government would review its position on the matter of UBS' penalties.

The country's three-year-old problem with its trade data was revived by the Asian Wall Street Journal in early January, quoting a study made by UBS.

The report said the Philippines had been understating imports in the last three years, effectively overstating the current account surplus to give investors an impression that the country's trade was in a healthy position.

PPA posts record ₱1.87-B income in 2002

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority posted last year a record income of P1.87 billion, up 11 percent from the previous year's P1.68 billion.

In a statement issued yesterday, PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi said some "steadfast reforms," as well as an improvement in the efficiency of the agency's operations and management, led to the revenue growth.

The PPA operates and manages 114 ports all over the country, including North Harbor, the country's premier domestic port in Manila, and the Batangas port.

Cusi said over the past two years, the PPA had been able to implement some cost-containment measures that helped the agency cut down on its operational expenses.

Also, collection of fees and charges has become more efficient, leading to higher earnings.

The PPA was also able to cash in on the peso's slide against the dollar with the dollar-denominated tariffs that it collected.

"Expenses were strictly controlled without sacrificing the efficiency of our services. The rules were strictly enforced, which accounted for better collection performance," Cusi said.

Before 2001, the PPA only chalked up a net income of P210 million.

In the past two years, however, with revenues going past the P1-billion, the PPA was able to engage in vital port infrastructure development projects that provided the necessary inter-island links and connections among the country's more than 7,000 islands.

Cocktales

From page B3

ties" in the Philippines and, in partnership with scientists from UP Los Baños, "develop 'product commercialization packages' for each GM crop" suitable for local farming conditions.

"In addition, by fostering new links with US agribusiness ... USAID is helping US agribusiness in ways that also expand income and food security prospects of poor rural people around the world," said the Cornell website on the biotechnology program.

Against the backdrop of congressional uproar, DAI this month revised its own website and removed widespread reference to the agency's claimed regulatory successes of the Agile program, striking off even the project cost.

DAI listed an "environmental governance program" as its lone long-term project in the Philippines, in addition to Agile, whose project runs up to 2005, and the new biotechnology contract, which would run from now until 2007.

"Communities in the Philippines are given control of forest land denuded under the Marcos regime," DAI said, referring to the mainly Mindanao based sustainable resource management program.

The agency also struck off enumerating the widespread presence of the Agile "satellite offices" within the key financial, regulatory, judicial, executive and legislative agencies, listing only one agency, the National Economic Development Authority—of which its present head, Romulo Neri, has been the beneficiary of several USAID and other foreign grants when he was still with Congress and the Asian Institute of Management—as its remaining Philippine government client.

No longer Newsbroke

POLO-PLAYING playboy Albert "Bobby" Aguirre has developed a new love, and it is not about what you think it is.

Aguirre has taken to reading lately, but his newfound literary longing is apparently limited to the current edition of Newsbreak, the weekly investigative magazine funded by telecom heir Antonio "TonyBoy" Cojuangco.

According to Newsbreak president Ricky Carandang, Aguirre and his friends have been buying up all available newsstand copies of the magazine, which features on the cover the mounted Aguirre in full polo regalia.

Bobby's polo colleague, Froiland Miranda, for instance, bought all the remaining copies of Newsbreak from the Manila Polo Club newsstand.

Carandang, who is more familiar to the readers as an ANC Channel 21 anchor, said he has ordered another print run of Newsbreak to satisfy Aguirre's increased demand, notwithstanding an explicit libel threat from Aguirre's aides.

Apparently, even Aguirre's estranged uncle, Pedro Aguirre, has also been hoarding copies of the magazine and distributing them to friends and colleagues.

Heard through the grapevine

THE AYALAS have not even begun digging a hole for The Columns, its triple condo project at the corner of Ayala and Buendia, and yet they have already scheduled a July groundbreaking for a new cluster of residential condominiums—a five-star hotel is also being planned should the economy continue on its growth track—at what is now the Anson Arcade at the corner of Pasay Road and Paseo de Roxas.

Because of its Greenbelt proximity, the Anson Arcade condos would be priced several notches above The Columns, whose upper northern view includes a panoramic expanse of the South Cemetery.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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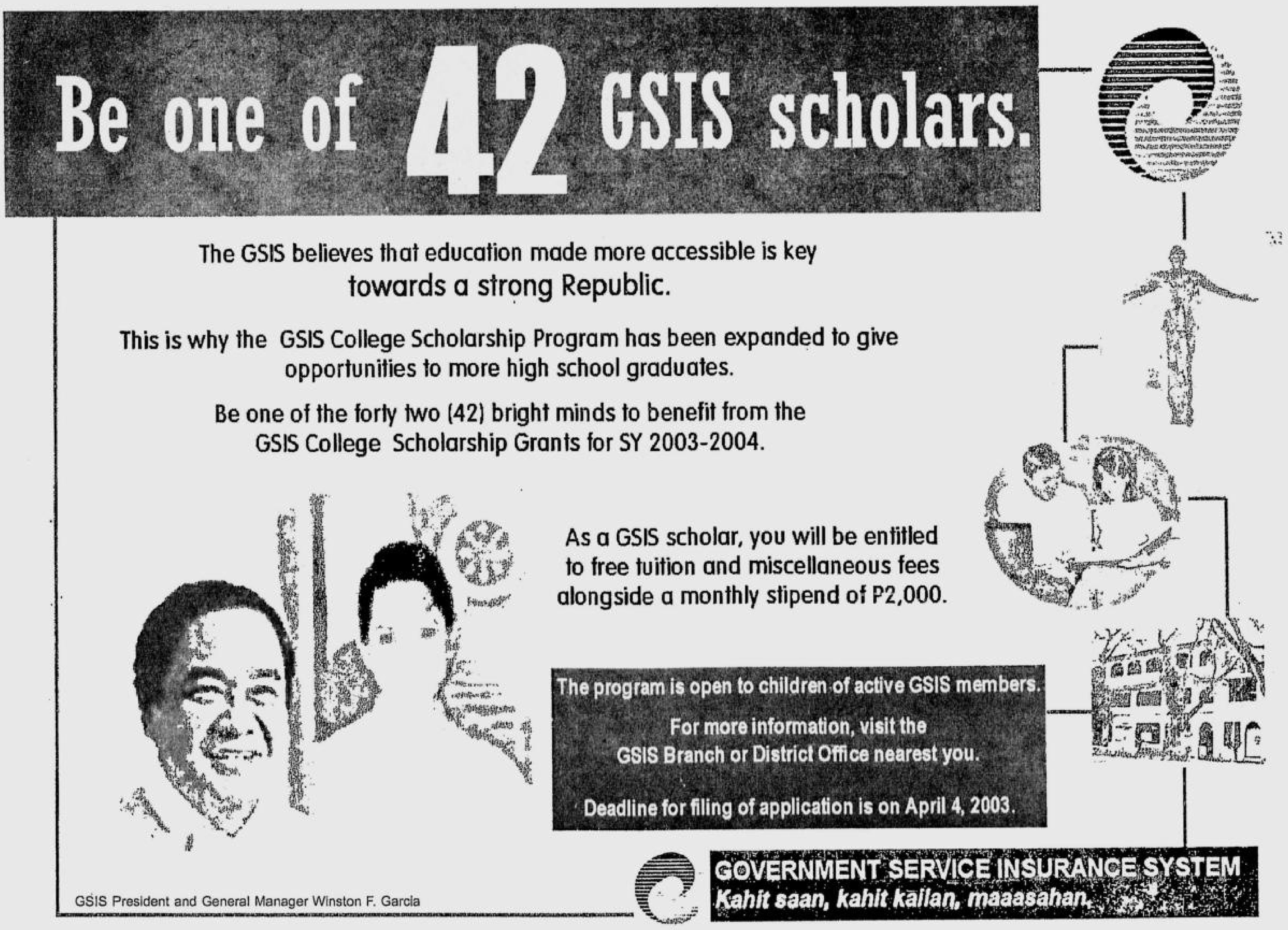

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3 Japan SMEs to invest P100M in auto parts plan

THREE Japanese small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are investing over P100 million to put up a high-technology molds factory in Batangas to manufacture automotive parts and electronics components.

The Japanese SMEs are Chuo Mold Co. Ltd., Kasei Industry Co. Ltd., and Kawasho Corp. They have leased space at the Lima Technology Center for their factory that would supply the requirements of major Japanese automotive and electronic assemblers in the country.

This is the second venture of Kasei (an electronic parts maker) and Kawasho (a metal and steel processor), which jointly own K&K Molding that employs 300 Filipinos in its 4-year-old electronics parts and components factory.

The three Japanese firms were among the 100 corporations that the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority met during an ongoing investment promotion swing in Nagoya and Osaka, Japan.

Peza director general Lilia B. de Lima said the government aimed to attract more Japanese SMEs to relocate their factories from Japan to the Philippines. De Lima said the rising production and labors costs in Japan have forced Japanese SMEs to look for alternative production sites overseas. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

NTC tells phone firms to seek other call routes to and from US

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL telecommunications companies are encouraged to seek other call routes to and from the United States if they will not reach an interim arrangement with American carriers AT&T and MCI/Worldcom soon, the National Telecommunications Commission had informed the US Federal Communications Commission.

In a two-page letter, NTC Commissioner Armi Jane Borje told the US FCC that local carriers' termination fees of $0.12 per minute for fixed line calls and $0.16 per minute for mobile phone calls were still below the $0.19-per-minute FCC benchmark and the International Telecommunications Union's suggested rate of $0.238.

Borje said that the Philippine telephone firms' rates were thus "fair and reasonable" and "have been accepted by most foreign operating administrations worldwide."

The commissioner added: "It is the position of the NTC in keeping with international practice, commercial arrangements and national laws that termination rates are private commercial arrangements entered into by carriers of their own free will pursuant to the constitutional guarantee of freedom to contract."

She added that the NTC had ordered local carriers to comply with the terms of existing agreements with foreign carriers, specifically in maintaining the flow of traffic in and between circuits and facilities covered by the contracts.

"In the event that there exists no effective agreements, (local carriers) are encouraged to negotiate and conclude agreements," Borje said.

But if this was not possible, she said local carriers and AT&T and MCI/Worldcom might agree on provisional or interim arrangements.

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Investor groups keen on acquiring 55% of SCAD

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOREIGN investor groups from the United States, Japan and Singapore have expressed interest in taking over 55 percent of the newly formed Subic-Clark Alliance Development Corp. (SCAD) which will develop the Central Luzon growth corridor anchored on the two former American military bases.

SCAD representatives Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo, Clark Development Corp. president Emmanuel Angeles and Bases Conversion Development Authority president Rufo Colayco are set to meet with officials of American Railworld Corp. and Hillwood Investment Properties next month to discuss the SCAD strategy.

American Railworld is a major railroad builder and operator in the US while Hillwood, which is run by businessman Ross Perot Jr., is keen on replicating its Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex in Asia. Colayco said Hillwood had already done a study on the development of a Subic-Clark corridor.

Colayco also expected the Japanese investment firms such as Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Toyo and Marubeni Corp. to take up equity shares in SCAD considering that the state-owned Japan Bank for International Cooperation had provided soft loans to SCAD projects—$250 million for the Subic Port and $450 million for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac road project.

Colayco said SCAD officials have held informal talks with another potential foreign investor, the state-run Temasek Holdings of Singapore.

Colayco said SCAD was looking to a foreign investor to provide not only the financial muscle but also the strategic resources or "know-how" to carry out SCAD's projects as well as market linkages to create critical mass to draw in more investors into the project.

Payumo said that while "half of the battle has been won" with JBIC funding for SCAD's main projects, SCAD still needed more investors to undertake other projects such as the development of energy, water and telecommunication facilities, and secondary roads.

The BCDA, CDC and SBMA have pumped in their core assets—the Clark airport, Subic port and expressway—to get an equal share in SCAD. The three will have their shares diluted to a combined 45 percent to accommodate the entry of a foreign partner.

BIR introduces e-broadcast service

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has launched its e-broadcast service called "Payment Confirmation Through Electronic Broadcasting," a program through which taxpayers are given a confirmation of their tax payments either through short messaging system (SMS), e-mail, the BIR's web facility and the BIR's interactive voice response system.

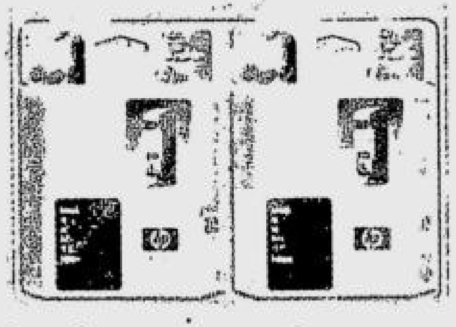
In last Monday's tax campaign launch, a program aimed at improving the BIR's tax collection, Internal Revenue deputy commissioner for information systems group Lilia Guillermo announced that the bureau had signed a memorandum of understanding with Smart Communications for the implementation of the e-broadcast service.

Guillermo said there had been cases of tax diversion scams in the past, in which victim-companies were given fake official receipts and fake tax returns. She explained that through the e-broadcasting service, cases of tax diversion would be reduced, if not totally eliminated.

In an interview, BIR director for information systems operation service data center Victoria de Leon said that in order to avail oneself of the e-broadcasting service, one has to enroll with the BIR by writing a letter to the bureau and the submission of necessary information such as tax identification number, e-mail address and cellular phone number. She said the processing of the enrollment would take a week.

Through the e-broadcast service, a taxpayer will be notified by the BIR of his or her tax payment within 38 hours after the payment is made.

. he BIR said that a taxpayer who would not receive a verification within 38 hours upon tax payment could call the bureau's payment verification hotline (928-8510/981-7107).



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Pet store cashes in on shrinking housing spaces

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

BEFORE the ill effects of the population explosion made their presence felt in the 1990s, many Filipino families had their own bungalows with a garden, a playground and, yes, pets.

Fast forward to the 21st century, and the typical residence for young families is now a small apartment or a condo unit. Gardens gave way to potted plants and bringing along the rambunctious pet dog is no longer possible because of space constraints.

Entrepreneur Rommel Juan saw a business opportunity in selling smaller pets, such as bunnies and guinea pigs. These much smaller animals, he says, meet the desire of many Filipinos to still raise pets despite the limited space and the restrictive pet policies that many condo managers adopt.

"I was also inspired by a childhood memory of buying chicks and ducks whenever we came out of church every Sunday," Juan says.

Juan then got two of his friends together and, with an initial capital of P60,000 each, Pettypets was born in 2001—so-called to connote small, cute pets.

It took about a year of study and research on small pets and the best way to take care of them before the first Pettypets cart was installed in Shopwise Libis in April last year. Juan even went to breeding farms in Batangas, Laguna and Bulacan searching for quality pets for his target customers.

Juan and his partners already decided carts were the best medium to sell small animals because these were easy to transfer from one site to another and required a smaller investment compared to the usual space in a mall.

Chicks and ducklings

Pettypets began with the usual small pets, like hamsters, white mice, chicks and ducklings.

To differentiate Pettypets from run-of-the-mill vendors in churches, Juan hired veterinarians to write down basic pet-care instructions.

The pets also came in special packages that already included a cage, an instruction manual and animal feed enough for a day or two.

"It was an instant success when we opened because, I guess, the children liked it, and we displayed the animals in such a way to attract the kids and their parents," Juan says.

Children today, he says, are as fascinated with animals as children of the '70s or '80s even if the idea of fun for many of them is playing in front of a computer.

"We have trained our people to let these children know that these pets are not toys. They should be taken cared of properly," he says.

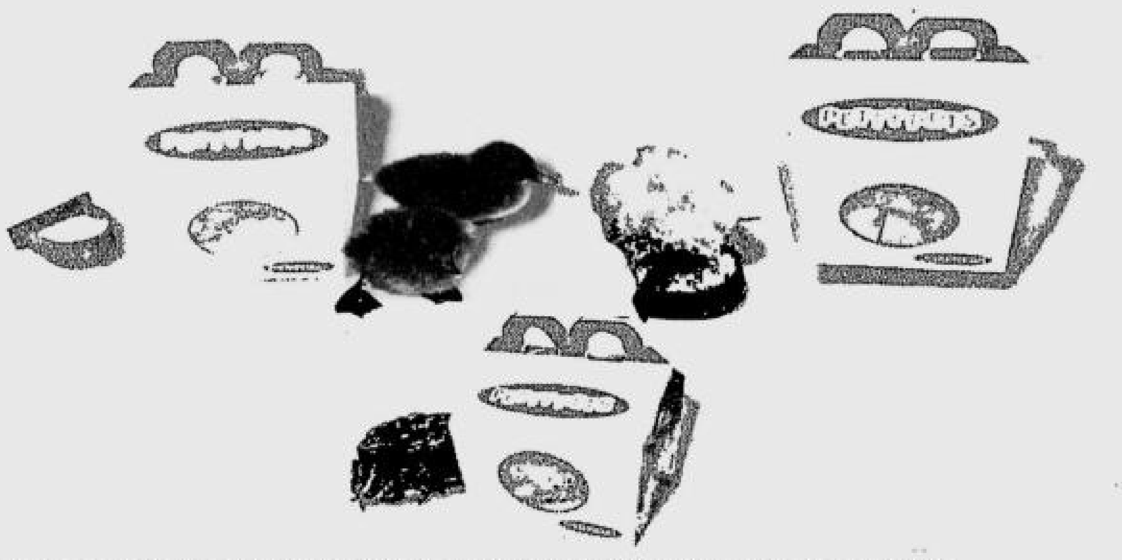
Juan explains that the added service, such as tips on how to raise these pets, is part of Pettypets' philosophy to go beyond just selling animals to whoever wants to buy them.

"This is why we got veterinarians to help man the stores because we want to offer our clients good advice because other stores would just sell the animal and that's it. We go beyond that," Juan says.

Expansion

The success of the first cart encouraged Juan and his partners to quickly expand to other areas.

In just a little over a year, there are now four Pettypets carts located at the Robinsons Galleria, SM Southmall Storyland, SM Bicutan and the original Shopwise outlet.



SAY goodbye to Fido. With apartment spaces shrinking, small, cute and cuddly pets are in.

From hamsters and white mice, Pettypets added bunnies—its best selling pets today—turtles and fish that do not need special aquariums for them to survive.

"We chose animals that would be good starting animals for children. These are particularly easy to take care of, so that the kids can take care of them themselves," Juan says.

Since children are the main market, Pettypets has come up with cute names such as Yowsy Mouse, Murtle Turtle, Spam the Hamster, Wobley Lobster, Gail the Quail, Goofy Guppy, Wacky Duck, Giddy the Pig, Ferdie Birdie and Funny Bunny.

"We are really pet-based and our main market is the children. Unlike other stores where the accessories and pet food are up front, our carts have the pets themselves as the main attraction. In this way, the children immediately see the pets, and they are enticed to get them for themselves," Juan says.

Juan is optimistic that the small pet business will continue to grow because of the renewed interest in small animals and the value that parents see in teaching children to take care of their pets. Small animals are also popular as gifts during parties and events.

"Children just love pets, and these small pets teach them about responsibility, about love for animals and love for life, which is really one of our missions," he says.

Philexim seen giving $127M worth of guarantees

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Export-Import Credit Agency is looking into providing $127 million in guarantees for two gas-related and one cargo X-ray projects.

"Our financial guarantee muscle can go as high as $3 billion. At present, we have $150 million in outstanding guarantees so we have $2.85 billion to spare," Philexim president Joel Valdes said in a recent interview.

For a single account, the state-owned agency may provide a maximum guarantee of $200 million.

Documents show that Philexim is considering the following guarantees:

- $90 million for a $130-million 130-kilometer gas pipeline project that will bring natural gas from a processing plant in Batangas to Manila
- $20 million for a $31-million project that will allow the use of a container X-ray machine as an alternative to actual physical examination to speed up the examination of shipments and movement of cargo
- $7 million to encourage bus operators to use natural gas.

PNOC-Exploration Corp. is undertaking the natural gas pipeline project. It is currently talking to some interested parties under a joint-venture scheme.

The National Development Co. is part of a joint venture that will carry out the cargo X-ray equipment procurement project.

Regional execs rank Globe No.1 telco in the Philippines

GLOBE TELECOM

The country's pioneer and leader in digital cellphone technology romps away from its com petition through its astute understanding of customer mobile lifestyle needs.

More than 7 years after it pioneered digital mobile phone technology in the Philippines, Globe Telecom has successfully steered itself to become the Philippine telecom industry's leader and gain the confidence and approval of regional executives in Asia. In the 2002 ranking of the Far Eastern Economic Review's (FEER) survey, The Review 200: Asia's Leading Companies, Globe Telecom's relentless move to innovate and respond to its subscribers' needs proved to be apparent as it ascended its ranking two notches higher, from 6th to 4th in the list of 10 most admired companies in the Philippines. It also gave Globe Telecom the distinction of being the only telecom company in the Philippines to be in the top 5.

FEER's The Review 200 is an annual readership survey that ranks which companies in Asia best exemplify selected qualities of corporate leadership which include: high quality products and services, innovative in responding to customer needs, long-term vision, financial soundness, and being a company that others try to emulate.

The phenomenal performance of Globe Telecom's main business as a cellular phone network provider is highly reflected in the way it introduced cellphone service innovations that changed the Filipinos' communication lifestyle. Back when the market was still composed of analog subscribers, Globe chose to be a "lone wolf" by venturing into the digital cellphone segment. Its introduction of the Globe Handyphone, the digital cellphone that has the short messaging system (SMS) capability, more popularly known here as "text messaging" or texting, rapidly changed the competitive terrain and made subscribers take a second look at their current cellphone service. In fact, when the consumers discovered texting as a fast and cost-efficient means of communication, it unprecedentedly turned the Philippines into the "texting capital of the world," with an average of 50 million messages sent daily—approximating the volume of messages sent in Europe in a year.

Making great products possible

Globe Telecom's no. 3 ranking in the "high quality products and services" category affirms its image leadership which is hinged on constant application of next-level technologies and the corresponding approval of consumers. But this status was hard earned. Winning the market's attention and trust in Globe Telecom's products and services that meet their definition of quality and communication needs wasn't easy. Potential subscribers viewed signing-up or switching to a new cellphone service as a major investment and therefore should carry a considerable weight of necessity. Globe Telecom did its homework in finding out the best solutions to answer the communication needs of the subscribing public. With a well-planned playbook anchored on pioneering innovations in service delivery, customer care and the employment of appropriate technologies, Globe Telecom launched its cellphone service in 1994 utilizing the power of Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM)—the world's leading fully digital communications standard. This answered the analog subscribers disfavor towards the cloning and eavesdropping, as the technology is 100% clone-free. The GSM technology also introduced the then novel SMS or texting wherein a subscriber can send or receive text messages, and the caller ID feature where incoming calls can be tracked. All these proved to be useful features and services and thus, did not only make analog users switch to digital technology, it also grew the subscriber base by millions.

"Making Great Things Possible": Driven to tirelessly reinvent the marketing terrain

Globe Telecom knew very well that the success and leadership they attained isn't to be dealt with complacency. Soon after, competition followed suit, attempting to take the new found opportunity to claim a piece of the digital cellphone technology pie. Globe Telecom, being the pioneer, used its behemoth strengths in innovation and ability to respond to subscriber needs to further its lead. An onslaught of value added services were introduced such as subscribers being able to send text messages internationally, download ringtones and graphics to personalize their phones, instant access to information such as stock, weather, news, sports and movie schedules. To cater to the needs of a huge chunk of subscribers who require connectivity across continents, the international roaming service and calling through international direct dialing (IDD) and access to e-mail were also made available. Soon after, Globe Telecom introduced another first with its prepaid international roaming service. This innovation brought international access to the broader subscriber base. The idea was to put every form of communication they need in the cellphone that they carry.

Blazing the trail while others take the cue

With a continuously growing subscriber base, Globe Telecom maintains a competitive edge and pioneering stance through its next-level offerings accessible to both its postpaid and prepaid subscribers. This company that brought texting to the Filipinos was also the first to introduce multimedia messaging service (MMS) in 2002. Through MMS, subscribers can now send and receive photo messages, polyphonic ringtones and Java-based games. While it's only a matter of time until the rest of the cellular phone service providers will get in the ring to slug it out for MMS supremacy, it comes as no surprise. Globe Telecom has been ranked in the FEER survey as one of the top Philippine companies that others try to emulate.

ADVT.

GLOBE TELECOM IS LEADING COMPANY IN REVIEW 200

Hong Kong, February 27, 2003 – Globe Telecom's leadership in the digital mobile telecommunications industry was further demonstrated after it was hailed by business leaders from across Asia as one of the leading companies in the Philippines, as well as the entire Asian region. This was through the prestigious Review 200, an annual survey conducted by the Far Eastern Economic Review to rank the best companies in Asia who possess the progressive characteristics of a corporate leader: high quality products and services, innovative in responding to customer needs, long-term vision, financial soundness, and being a company that others try to emulate. In the previous year, Globe placed sixth as a new entry into the list. Globe's ascent as the fourth leading company in the Philippines this year is a clear indication of the company's leadership position. "This only means we at Globe will continue to bring more value to our products and services while we strive to reach out and connect to all Filipinos," said Gerry Ablaza, (right) Globe Telecom president and CEO after he received the award. The award was given out during a gathering of business leaders in Hong Kong, organized by the Far Eastern Economic Review. Shown awarding Ablaza the Review 200 trophy is Far Eastern Economic Review editor Michael Vatikiotis (left).

RP: Haven, heaven for smugglers

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

SEVEN months ago, the Philippines was a haven for smugglers. For those who smuggled agricultural products such as vegetables, pork, and chicken, smuggling was so profitable and safe that it was also heaven for them. As an example, imagine smuggling carrots from China during that time.

Why smuggling is attractive

- Carrots from China were banned in the Philippines because they did not undergo the required phytosanitary procedures and facilities inspection in China. But they could be landed here at P4 a kilo, when the wholesale price of domestic carrots at that time was P18. This was more than four times the cost and, therefore, extremely profitable.
- Unlike other countries where quarantine officials inspected the product before customs officials cleared them, this was not so in the Philippines. Thus, only customs had to be "persuaded" to let in these illegal goods since there was no check and balance from quarantine.
- If caught, the smuggled goods would be confiscated. The smuggler, however, would not even be charged. The emphasis was on the smuggled goods, not the smugglers. Besides, no smuggler had ever been sent to jail.
- The smuggler could redeem the goods by paying the tariffs, taxes and penalties. For carrots, it was P3 per kilo. If this was added to the P4 for the product itself, the P7 total cost would still be far below the P18 domestic price. The profits would still be enormous.
- However, if the smuggler so chose, he could use fronts and syndicates to buy at the auction floor price of P5 per kilo. Though the auction floor price should be close to the prevailing wholesale market price, this was "fixed" beforehand with the conniving customs' personnel.
- With the depressed prices due to smuggled imports, the Cordillera farmers could no longer sell their carrots, so they suffered and starved. But this did not matter much to the smuggler because with the assured safety and profitability, he had found a perfect haven and heaven for smuggling.

Fortunately, the situation in Metro Manila has improved significantly.

Reforms

What are the reforms that have taken place?

- For every case of smuggling, the goods are not only confiscated. The suspected smugglers are also charged. The Alyansa Agrikultura, a coalition of federations representing more than a million farmers and fisherfolk, is advocating that smuggling be declared a heinous crime punishable with the death penalty.
- There is now simultaneous inspection of both customs and DA quarantine personnel for all refrigerated container vans arriving in Metro Manila. The Presidential Security Group and representatives of farmers and fisherfolk are present during this inspection. According to General Hermogenes Esperon, head of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Task Force, at the start of the 100-percent inspection procedure, 40 out of 100 vans were found containing smuggled goods. Now that the smugglers know this, only one or none of the over 100 container vans arriving daily in Manila have such smuggled items.
- Farmers and fisherfolk representatives now participate actively and in an innovative manner in the anti-smuggling efforts. The Cordillera farmers have a full-time person in Metro Manila monitoring markets, identifying possible smuggling sources and coordinating with different government agencies. On Feb. 20, customs collector Felipe Bartolome, with the support of Deputy Customs Commissioner Rey Allas and customs management, issued a memo identifying the private sector representatives who would be present at the examination of confiscated shipments. They would also take charge of the Farmers/Fisherfolk/Agriwatch Desk set up at the Manila International Container Port. Anyone outside Manila can now call a private sector line collect (02-8516635) to report smuggling leads and activities.
- To the credit of Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, who responded immediately to our request for no redemption of smuggled goods by the importers, there is also now a policy of no auction. All agricultural products are confiscated and kept at the customs area. Work is currently being done on a comprehensive mechanism for disposing of these goods.

Future directions

Though smuggling has significantly decreased in Metro Manila, much still has to be done.

- We should adopt the practice of other countries in disallowing imported goods without the proper import documents from leaving the ship on which they arrived. Since the shipowners will incur additional costs because they have to take the cargo back to the country of origin, they will then inspect and prevent these goods from being shipped. As of Feb. 7, there were 147 overstaying reefer vans at the Manila ports. One of these contained pork that had been there for three years and two months. At the P1,800 daily storage charge, this confiscated shipment has already cost our taxpayers P2.1 million. Add to this the risk that it may disappear into the domestic market, as two containers of meat did in December 2002. This caused health hazards to our consumers and possible contamination of our agricultural products.
- Collector Bartolome's directive of putting up a desk with authorized private sector representatives being present at cargo examinations should be replicated in all appropriate ports across the country. Also replicated should be

RP/B18

MILLENNIUM

EDUCATION AND PENSION PLANS, INC.

celebrates its 7th year through
a gathering in honor of its Top Producers

The 7th Anniversary and National Awards

MESSAGE

Since the Company's inception on July 14, 1995, we have kept true to our vision as partner in Nation building by providing financial security for the Filipino.

Today, our corporate growth has become inevitable. Trust assets have increased by as much as 2,236%. This is evidence that the company undertakes judicious effort to ensure that trust premiums paid for policies sold are lawfully and adequately earmarked and invested.

We value our clients as individual persons with individual thoughts and beliefs. Our relationship with them does not end even as we pay the last of their benefits.

By the same people who founded the Technological Institute of the Philippines and with the same fervor, dedication and support backing, its continued existence since 1962, Millennium Plans will be around to service the needs of its policyholders, employees, and sales personnel.

Our word is our bond, integrity and honesty lay as the groundwork for our professionalism, from it stems our credibility.

TERESITA U. QUIRINO
Chairperson-President
MEPPI

It is indeed necessary to mobilize domestic savings for productive investments in the economy. It is in harnessing the savings capacity of the Filipinos that we will be able to lessen our dependence on foreign capital, which more often than not leads to issues that tend to polarize Filipinos as regards basic economic policies.

It is in this light that I would like to congratulate Millennium Education and Pension Plans, Inc. for the great service it has rendered not only in savings mobilization for the past seven years, but also in making sure that thousands of Filipino men and women will enjoy their retirement years.

More importantly, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the efforts of the Quirino Family, who have dedicated themselves to the education of the Filipino youth not only through the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) but also through the educational plans and programs of Millennium Education and Pension Plans, Inc.

It is my fervent hope that MEPPI through the able leadership of the Quirino Family achieve greater heights and continue to serve the interest of the Filipino people in the years to come.

Mabuhay and God Bless!

Loren Legarda
Senator
Majority Leader

News of firms setting new milestones always provides a whiff of fresh air in this challenging times. It brings hope and inspiration to other companies that strive to survive in the competition-driven environment of commerce and industry.

This is why I am very honored to congratulate the management and staff of Millennium Education and Pension Plans, Inc. (MEPPI) on the occasion of its 7th Anniversary and National Awards on February 28, 2003.

Since MEPPI began in the pre-need business seven years ago, it lived by its vision to serve as partner in nation-building by promoting the practice of saving for the future among Filipinos. It also continues to adhere to its corporate values that focus on integrity, nationalism, stability, diligence, and customer-centeredness. Such values have molded pre-need professionals who are committed to the Filipino community and family.

Let me commend MEPPI for coming up with a unique pre-need project called PASADA (Planong Angkop sa Drivers Atbp.) which will help public utility vehicle drivers secure their future by investing in retirement and insurance benefits. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has also set up forms of assistance programs to help informal sector workers, including public utility vehicle drivers, to provide them safety nets in case of urgent need. MEPPI's PASADA project will certainly complement government's efforts as it will also teach informal sector workers the value of planning and saving for the future.

On behalf of the DOLE, I would like to extend my warm felicitations to MEPPI, its management and hardworking staff. I wish you would come up with more meaningful and beneficial programs for your clients who are mostly working Filipinos.

Mabuhay kayo!

Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
Secretary
DOLE

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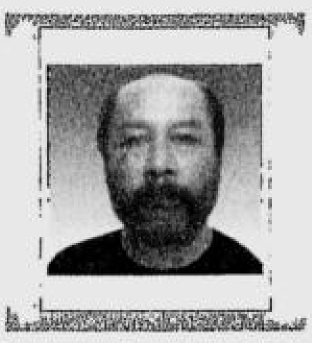
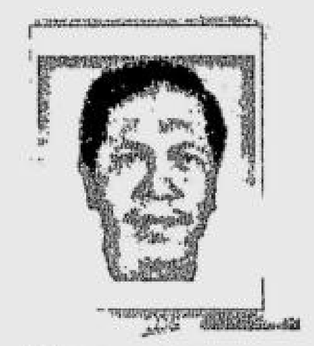


Benjamin Santos

Vicente Naveo



Eligio Quizon

Rommel Nueva

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LONG-TERM FUNDS

Asean, Japan to set up body to back Asian bonds

TOKYO—Asean countries and Japan plan to set up a new body in two years to guarantee bonds issued by major Asian companies to help them raise stable long-term funds, a report said Thursday.

They believe the scheme would also help decrease the regional dependence on dollars if more bonds are issued in local currencies, the Nihon Keizai economic daily said.

The plan will be endorsed at an informal meeting of member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and its three key dialogue partners—China, Japan and South Korea—in Tokyo on Friday, it said.

Deputies to finance ministers and central bank governors will discuss how to develop bond markets in Asia at the meeting, the finance ministry said, while declining to confirm the report.

The nations will aim to approve the scheme officially when their finance ministers meet in May, the Nihon Keizai said in a dispatch from Bangkok without naming sources.

The countries will decide how much money they would put up for the new institution, while considering stepping up credit guarantees by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) until the new body is established, the paper said.

The bonds to be guaranteed by the new body will be denominated in dollars in the short term but later they would be issued in yen and other Asian currencies, it said.

The move would reduce foreign exchange risks for issuers and encourage Asian consumers to funnel their relatively high savings into bonds, it said.

It is also aimed at paving the way for the creation of a common Asian currency, the report added.

Peter McCawley, dean at the ADB Institute here said "in principle, moves towards developing and improving bond markets across Asia are very welcome." Bond markets in Asia were still underdeveloped, especially in developing countries, he noted.

"Certainly over time looking to the future, Asia needs to have well-functioning bond markets," he said, adding this would require further development of institutions.

"We need both institutions, regulatory agencies and so on that are effective and we need players in the market that are companies that are increasingly willing to issue bonds," he said.

Besides macroeconomic benefits, good bond markets would also contribute to increasing corporate governance, he said.

"One of the advantages for having a good private-sector bond market is that it does expose companies to greater transparency," he said.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. AFP

Energy costs latest woe for US firms

NEW YORK—US manufacturers, already tripped up by a prolonged economic slump that has battered both share prices and business spending, face another hurdle on the road to restoring profit growth—the rising cost of energy.

With crude oil prices hovering at a more than two-year high on fears about the possibility of a war in Iraq, several companies have already warned of the negative impact higher energy costs will have on their bottom lines this year and many more are expected to follow suit.

"I'm certain we'll see more (warnings), particularly in the basic materials group," said Chuck Hill, director of research at Thomson First Call, which tracks company earnings.

Makers of raw materials like steel, wood and chemicals are usually hit hardest by rising energy costs, Hill said, because they use large amounts of electricity and steam to power massive manufacturing facilities.

Analysts who cover those industries are worried earnings estimates for the first quarter will have to come down as the impact of higher energy costs takes shape.

Indeed, some companies have already begun trimming forecasts in part because of rising energy costs.

Eastman Chemical Co. , a big maker of plastic beverage bottles, as well as chemicals used to make adhesives, coatings and inks, said last month it's first-quarter profit would fall below Wall Street forecasts in part due to higher raw material costs. *Reuters*

HSBC cautious about 2003 growth outlook

LONDON—Global bank HSBC Holdings Plc said on Wednesday it is cautious about the economic outlook for the rest of 2003, with global political factors making economic forecasting tough.

But the UK-based banking giant, which will file its 2002 results next week, said its core domestic franchises continue to support "resilient operating performance" into 2003.

HSBC, Europe's largest bank, is in the process of buying US consumer finance firm Household International for $13.2 billion. It is required by the US Securities and Exchange Commission to file an update on the progress of the deal and give an indication of its current trading status.

"As a consequence of successive interest rate reductions over the past 24 months, treasury income is declining as maturing investments are redeployed in lower yielding assets," the bank said in a statement.

HSBC said, however, that the lower interest rates that are hurting its income are also holding loan defaults at levels consistent with "recent experience."

Nevertheless, the bank said that lending to companies remained a "subdued" business. *Reuters*

AN ELECTRONIC quotation board flashes the Nikkei Key index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange outside a securities brokerage company in Tokyo, Feb. 27. Japanese share prices fell 0.68 percent to trade around two-decade lows, hit by weak bank stocks and fears over the growing nuclear threat posed by North Korea, dealers said. The Nikkei-225 average of the Tokyo Stock Exchange lost 56.90 points to end the early session at 8,299.91, off an intraday low of 8,266.97. AFP

HP shares sink on revenue shortfall

NEW YORK—Shares of Hewlett-Packard Co. fell 11 percent Wednesday on disappointing revenue figures for its fiscal first quarter and a cautious outlook.

Investors shrugged off the company's improved earnings—the strongest earnings since its merger with Compaq Computer Corp.—achieved through cost cutting and strong holiday sales of personal computers.

Shares of HP fell $2.02 to $16.16 in late morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Palo Alto, California-based computer giant late Tuesday reaffirmed analysts' expectations of a fiscal second-quarter profit of 27 cents per share, but remained cautious about the current quarter and the prospects of improvement in corporate spending on expensive servers and other high-tech equipment.

For the three months ended Jan. 31, HP earned $721 million, or 24 cents per share, on sales of $17.9 billion, compared with the company's pre-merger profits of $484 million, or 25 cents per share, on sales of $11.4 billion in the same period last year.

Excluding one-time items, the company earned $877 million, or 29 cents per share, in the first quarter. The earnings beat Wall Street expectations of 28 cents per share but fell short of forecasts for sales of $18.5 billion, according to Thomson First Call.

HP's $19-billion merger with Compaq Computer Corp. was completed in May. At the time, skeptics doubted the two companies would mesh easily or generate the cost savings promised during the bruising, months-long battle over the deal.

The revenue decline was largely blamed on the Americas, where sales declined 7 percent, and in Japan, where they fell 6 percent. *AP*

Singapore Q4 GDP beats gov't forecast

SINGAPORE—Singapore's economy grew 0.4 percent on an annualized basis in the fourth quarter of 2002, beating a government estimate and propelled by strong factory output which kept the city-state narrowly out of recession.

The rise in gross domestic product—the total value of all goods and services—generated full-year growth of 2.2 percent for 2002, putting Singapore on track for a 2.0-to-5.0 expansion this year, the government said on Thursday.

"Singapore escaped a technical recession by the skin of its nose," said Song Seng Wun, economist at stockbroker GK Goh. "It was pretty much what we were looking for—a burst of growth in December led by manufacturing in the drugs sector.

That trend appears to have continued at least into January, when factory output rose 9.7 percent from December, largely on strength in biomedical sciences, a sector policymakers hope will generate future revenue as low-cost Chinese manufacturers erode a traditional base of electronics production.

The official figures beat earlier advanced estimates for the fourth quarter of 0.1 percent annualized growth, released in early January, but were in-line with a full-year estimate.

"Going forward, growth will be fairly lumpy. The external sector will perform better with exports rising, but internally, we will continue to see unemployment rising and weaker corporate profits," said Joseph Tan, economist at Standard Chartered Bank. *Reuters*

BMW reports record sales

SINGAPORE—German auto giant BMW achieved record sales of more than 78,000 vehicles in Asia last year, and aims to double the volume in five years, company officials said Thursday.

Sales in the region rose 28.4 percent to 78,527 vehicles last year, accounting for one in every five luxury cars sold. Japan was the biggest buyer and BMW Korea the fastest-growing subsidiary, a statement said.

The numbers made BMW "the leading premium car maker in Asia," it said.

"In the medium term—that is in the next five years—we plan to double our sales in Asia from 78,000 units today to approximately 150,000 units in the future," said Michael Ganal, a member of the BMW board of management.

The high-end 7 Series of executive sedans and the X5 sport utility vehicle were in brisk demand, along with the Mini compact car, which has become a big hit in the demanding Japanese import market.

The 3 and 5 Series cars, which account for the bulk of sales, posted modest growth.

Ganal said two new investments were being planned in Asia to further strengthen the group's presence.

In China, a joint venture pending government approval with Brilliance China Automotive Holdings is planned to start by the end of the year. *AFP*

European phone firms move to boost mobile commerce

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Paying for coffee with a few clicks of a cell phone isn't standard, but analysts say four of Europe's biggest wireless operators are closer to making it so after forming a clearinghouse to boost mobile commerce.

The operators—Spain's Telefonica Moviles SA, Germany's T-Mobile AG and Britain's Orange SA and Vodafone Group PLC—unveiled plans Wednesday to offer secure payments between merchants, cell phone users and banks.

Dubbed the Mobile Payment Services Association, the service will be launched in Europe, but with an eye toward markets in the United States and across Asia next year.

Tim Jones, the association's chief executive, said the service can push mobile commerce forward by creating a single brand for processing the payments.

Ostensibly, the market for buying goods with a cell phone is limited.

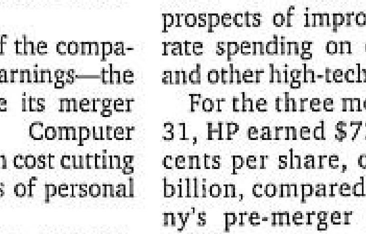
Users can go online, using a phone's built-in Web browser and order flowers from a Web site, provided the details of a credit or debit card are stored in a phone-based wallet.

The new clearinghouse, Jones said, works to that advantage, but offers more.

"What we're doing is rooting that set of card payment details securely from that mobile phone customer," he said from London.

Jones said that financial information is stored for future transactions.

"There is a growing experience already of customers, often younger people, buying logos and ring tones," he said.



PAYING for a cup of coffee with a few clicks on a cell phone may be closer than most people think. AP

The service will cover small purchases, typically no more than 10 euros ($10.80).

But the larger goal of mobile commerce should be convenience.

Edward Holland, a spokesperson for Madrid-based Telefonica Moviles, said the clearinghouse can speed that along.

By incorporating wireless operators from across Europe, users who live in Spain can download a new ring tone and bill it to their account, even if they are traveling in Sweden.

"It increases traffic for us and it increases the number and kinds of items that are billed to the customer," he told The Associated Press.

Last year, the amount of money spent globally for ring tones and logos was an estimated $1.6 billion, research firm Ovum said. By 2006, it said wireless commerce could reach $37 billion.

Jones said the initial rollout will take place in 2004, but only in a select group of European countries. The service would then move elsewhere abroad.

The four operators between them have a large presence abroad, including Telefonica Moviles, which has more than 33 million users in Europe, Latin America and the Mediterranean Basin.

Bonn-based T-Mobile has millions of subscribers in Germany and the United States. London-based Orange is one of Europe's largest mobile phone operators with more than 40 million subscribers, and Britain's Vodafone counts more than 112.5 million wireless users worldwide, including Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

John Strand, CEO of Copenhagen, Denmark-based Strand Consult, said it portends commerce that's more than video games or clips of music videos.

"We'll hear 'Will this be a credit card transaction or just a mobile transaction?'" he said. "It could be done."

Ultimately, said Bryan Prohm, a senior analyst with Gartner Dataquest in Raleigh, North Carolina, the clearinghouse is part of a long-term objective, and a step forward. *AP*

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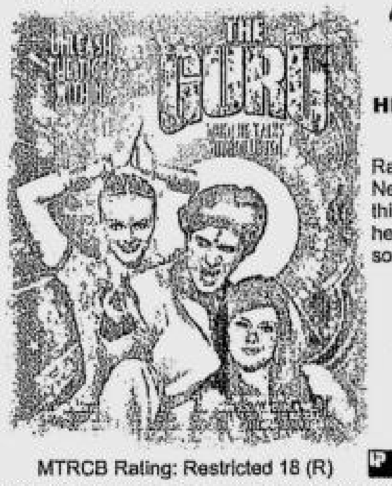

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4 (SDDS)	DAREDEVIL
5 (DTS)	FOUR FEATHERS
6	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7	EXTREMISTS

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2 (DTS)	NGAYON NANDITO KA
3 (DOLBY)	TREASURE PLANET
4	FOUR FEATHERS

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8	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
9	TREASURE PLANET
10	NGAYONG NANDITO KA

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3	MAGNIFICO
4	DAREDEVIL
5	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
7	DAREDEVIL
8	NYMPHA
9	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
10	AMAZON
11	FOUR FEATHERS
12	TREASURE PLANET

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1	TREASURE PLANET
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	FOUR FEATHERS
4	DAREDEVIL
5	EXTREMISTS
6	DAREDEVIL
7	NYMPHA
8	LEGEND OF THE CROCODILE
9	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
10	THE EYE
11	MAGNIFICO
12	THEY

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2	TREASURE PLANET
3	LEGEND OF THE CROCODILE
4	FOUR FEATHERS
5	THE EYE
6	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7	EXTREMISTS
8	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
9	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
10	DAREDEVIL
11	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
12	NYMPHA

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2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	NYMPHA
4	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
5	TREASURE PLANET
6	FOUR FEATHERS
7	DAREDEVIL
8	EXTREMISTS

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9	LEGEND OF THE CROCODILE
10	NYMPHA

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7	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
8	TREASURE PLANET

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1	TREASURE PLANET
2	CLOSED
3	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
4	HERO
5	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
6	DAREDEVIL
7	CLOSED
8	BETTER THAN SEX

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2	HERO
3	TREASURE PLANET
4	NYMPHA
5	FOUR FEATHERS
6	NGAYONG NANDITO KA

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1	NYMPHA
2	DAREDEVIL
3	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
4	TREASURE PLANET

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1	DAREDEVIL
2	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
3	NYMPHA
4	EXTREMISTS

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1	DAREDEVIL
2	LEGEND OF THE CROCODILE
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4	TREASURE PLANET
5	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
6	FOUR FEATHERS

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1	DAREDEVIL
2	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
3	EXTREMISTS
4	TREASURE PLANET

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2	TREASURE PLANET
3	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
4	DAREDEVIL

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2	FOUR FEATHERS
3	NYMPHA
4	EXTREMIST
5	TREASURE PLANET
6	NGAYON NANDITO KA
7	DAREDEVIL
8	LEGEND CROCODILE

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2	TREASURE PLANET
3	NGAYON NANDITO KA
4	EXTREMIST
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6	FOUR FEATHERS
7	LEGEND CROCODILES
8	THEY

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3	NYMPHA
4	EXTREMIST

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2	TREASURE PLANET
3	FOUR FEATHERS
4	NGAYON NANDITO KA
5	NYMPHA
6	DAREDEVIL

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6	NYMPHA

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Bush economic aide Hubbard resigns

HUBBARD AP

WASHINGTON—Glenn Hubbard resigned as chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers and Harvard University's Gregory Mankiw, a veteran of the Reagan administration, has been chosen to replace him, the White House announced on Wednesday.

Hubbard's abrupt departure is the latest in a series of dramatic shifts in President George W. Bush's economic team following last year's rapid-fire resignations of Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, White House economic aide Lawrence Lindsey and Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Harvey Pitt.

"I am writing to inform you that I shall resign my position as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, effective Feb. 28, 2003," Hubbard said in a letter to Bush.

"This decision is a difficult one, as serving you in the campaign and in this post has been the greatest honor and privilege of my professional life, but family needs are my most significant concern."

While Hubbard was based in Washington, his wife and young children remained in New York, where he returned on weekends.

Hubbard, who has served as chair of the Council of Economic Advisers since May 2001, has told colleagues he is likely to return to Columbia University, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1988.

A rising star in Bush's economic team, Hubbard was a chief architect of the president's $695-billion tax cut package proposed last month in a bid to bolster both the economy and his chances for reelection.

The package has, however, run into stiff opposition from Democrats and some moderate Republicans in Congress.

In a blow to the White House, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan said it was "premature" to apply a fiscal jolt before it was clear whether the economy was chiefly weighed down by worries about an Iraq war.

The White House said in a statement that Bush intended to nominate Mankiw to take over as chairman of the council. The nomination must be confirmed by the Republican-led Senate. *Reuters*

ASIAN STOCKS SLIP

Oil hits post-Gulf War peak

SINGAPORE—Crude oil prices shot to their highest level since the Gulf War on Thursday and most Asian stock markets slid as prospects grew of a US-led war on Iraq.

The dollar struggled to hold above a six-month low against the yen after chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix said on Wednesday Iraq had still not taken a "fundamental decision" to disarm.

News North Korea had restarted a nuclear reactor, according to US officials, and disappointing earnings from computer giant Hewlett-Packard stretched investors' nerves further.

"Lingering risks tied to Iraq and North Korea and surging oil prices are suffocating buying interest," said Yoo Sung-yeop, an analyst at Meritz Securities in South Korea, where the benchmark stock index sank 1.3 percent.

Oil prices, on the boil for weeks on fears a war would exacerbate a shortage in the United States, charged to new peaks as abnormally cold US weather drained heating fuel supplies to the lowest level in almost three years.

US light crude soared over 2 percent to a high of $38.66, before retreating to $38.22 a barrel, up 52 cents since the close of New York trade. That was less than $3 below a record $41.15 struck in October 1990 in the buildup to the Gulf War.

The oil price surge hit US stocks on Wednesday, wiping 1.3 percent off the Dow average and setting up Asian markets for a fall.

But Japan's Nikkei average ended up a couple of points at 8,359.38, after flirting with 20-year closing lows for most of the day, as battered banking stocks rebounded on talk of buying by public pension funds and hedge funds.

The market was undermined by the strength of the yen , which was trading just shy of a six-month peak of 117 to the dollar, contained only by fears Japanese authorities might intervene to weaken their currency.

"Japan is relying on external demand, so growing global tensions, a strong yen and higher oil prices are all negative to manufacturers here and to the stock market," said Hiroichi Nishi, general manager of equity marketing at Nikko Cordial Securities.

Australian stocks fell 1.1 percent to their lowest close in three years, with Qantas Airways tumbling 4.2 percent on soaring fuel costs. Taiwan fell 0.5 percent to a four-month low.

By midday, Hong Kong was off 0.2 percent as a 1.4-percent rise in Chinese oil producer CNOOC balanced a similar decline in Cathay Pacific Airways. Singapore was off 0.6 percent by lunch break. *Reuters*

US business bank loans at 4-year low

WASHINGTON—Commercial and industrial lending by banks, a major source of business investment and inventories in the United States, is at almost a four-year low, according to the Federal Reserve, another sign chief executives remain cautious.

Last week, the Fed reported bank C&I lending in the week ended Feb. 12 totaled $952.8 billion, down from $954.6 billion in the previous week. That's the slowest pace since the week ended May 19, 1999, according to Fed data.

Commercial and industrial loans, often called C&I loans for short, provide crucial financing for businesses for expansion and for financing inventories. Firms can also tap the commercial paper market instead of turning to banks for similar funding.

"It does suggest that demand is weak," said Paul Kasriel, director of economic research with The Northern Trust Co. in Chicago.

Kasriel said C&I loans provide "working capital" that often tracks movements in inventories. The fact that loan volume has sunk so low shows businesses are wary of over-production, and skeptical that consumer demand will rise soon. C&I loan volume peaked in January 2001, at $1.105 trillion.

"Businesses are still watching their inventories very, very closely," Kasriel said.

The figures echo some of the findings of a Fed survey released in January that showed many large US banks, as well as branches of foreign banks here, continue to tighten their standards for such loans.

About 22 percent of the 59 big American banks surveyed reported they tightened credit standards "considerably" or "somewhat" in recent months for large companies. It was the third straight survey where about one-fifth of banks polled said they had made business loan standards more difficult to meet.

"In contrast to the previous two surveys, however, three of the banks that tightened lending standards to larger firms in the most recent survey classified the tightening as considerable," the Fed said.

The top two reasons cited were a more uncertain economic outlook and worsening industry-specific problems. *Reuters*

US lawmakers scramble to laud Greenspan, say he should stay on

WASHINGTON—Senate Democrats leapt to a politically calculated defense of Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan on Wednesday, saying he should be able to stay in his job even if he doesn't fully agree with White House tax plans.

Debate flared at a Senate banking committee hearing—which was on the dry topic of bank deposit insurance—when Sen. Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat, decried Republican criticism earlier this month of Greenspan for critical comments he made about the Bush administration's $695-billion tax cut plan.

Pointed comments

"There's a clear message being sent out, you are either with us or against us, there can be no independent view," Schumer said, alleging a White House effort to "muffle" the influential Fed chief's opinions on the tax plan.

Greenspan testified two weeks ago that he did not feel huge tax cuts were needed now, and warned about potential dangers from projected record deficits—triggering intense speculation that the Fed chief's future could be limited because his remarks had angered the White House.

As recently as Tuesday, House Majority Leader Tom Delay insisted to reporters that Greenspan was "seriously wrong," though he said in response to question that he was not prepared to ask Greenspan to quit.

"I just feel he is seriously wrong and we are going to prove it that he is wrong," Delay said.

Schumer said he was introducing a resolution before the Senate supporting the traditional independence of the Federal Reserve and backing Greenspan's performance. Later on Wednesday, Schumer tried unsuccessfully to present the resolution to the full Senate for immediate debate.

GREENSPAN AP

"I think the chairman speaks with the best interests of the economy and the country in mind," Schumer told the committee hearing. "So all of this whispering and all of this desire to sort of muffle the Fed ... to say that the chairman ought to go, that the chairman's outlived his usefulness, I think is very bad for the Fed, for investors and for our country."

Committee chair Richard Shelby, an Alabama Republican, tried to deflect Schumer's remarks with humor by suggesting to Greenspan that he take all the time he wanted to address the panel, while asserting there was no attempt to impinge the Fed's traditional independence.

Keep markets calm

"I hope you're there as long as you want to be and we all would stipulate that the Fed is independent, both Democrats and Republicans and, gosh, it's going to remain independent, especially under your tenure, I know that," Shelby said.

Schumer maintained that given the queasy state of US financial markets fearful of a war with Iraq, it was more important than ever to show the US central bank could not be bent to the will of the ruling party.

"So today, along with Sen. (Jon) Corzine, I'll be introducing a sense of the Senate resolution supporting the independence and objectivity of the Fed and in keeping Chairman Greenspan in as long as he wants to," Schumer said. Corzine, a New Jersey Democrat, is a former Goldman Sachs executive.

Top Bush administration officials, including Treasury Secretary John Snow, have been at pains to play down the signs of disagreement between Greenspan and the White House over the tax cuts, which would drive government budget deficits to above $300 billion in each of this year and next fiscal year.

Snow said in Paris last weekend that Greenspan actually supports a central part of the Bush proposals—eliminating dividend taxes—and maintained that the deficits were "modest" in a $10-trillion US economy.

Greenspan, who turns 77 next week on March 6 and has been 15 years at the helm of the Federal Reserve, faces the expiry of his current term as its chairman on June 20, 2004—amid President Bush's campaign for reelection.

He remained cool under fire on Wednesday, responding obliquely as usual when invited by Shelby to comment on the committee chairman's assertion of respect for Fed independence and for his tenure.

"Speaking for my colleagues as well as myself, we thank you," Greenspan said with a small smile. *Reuters*

Sokor output down

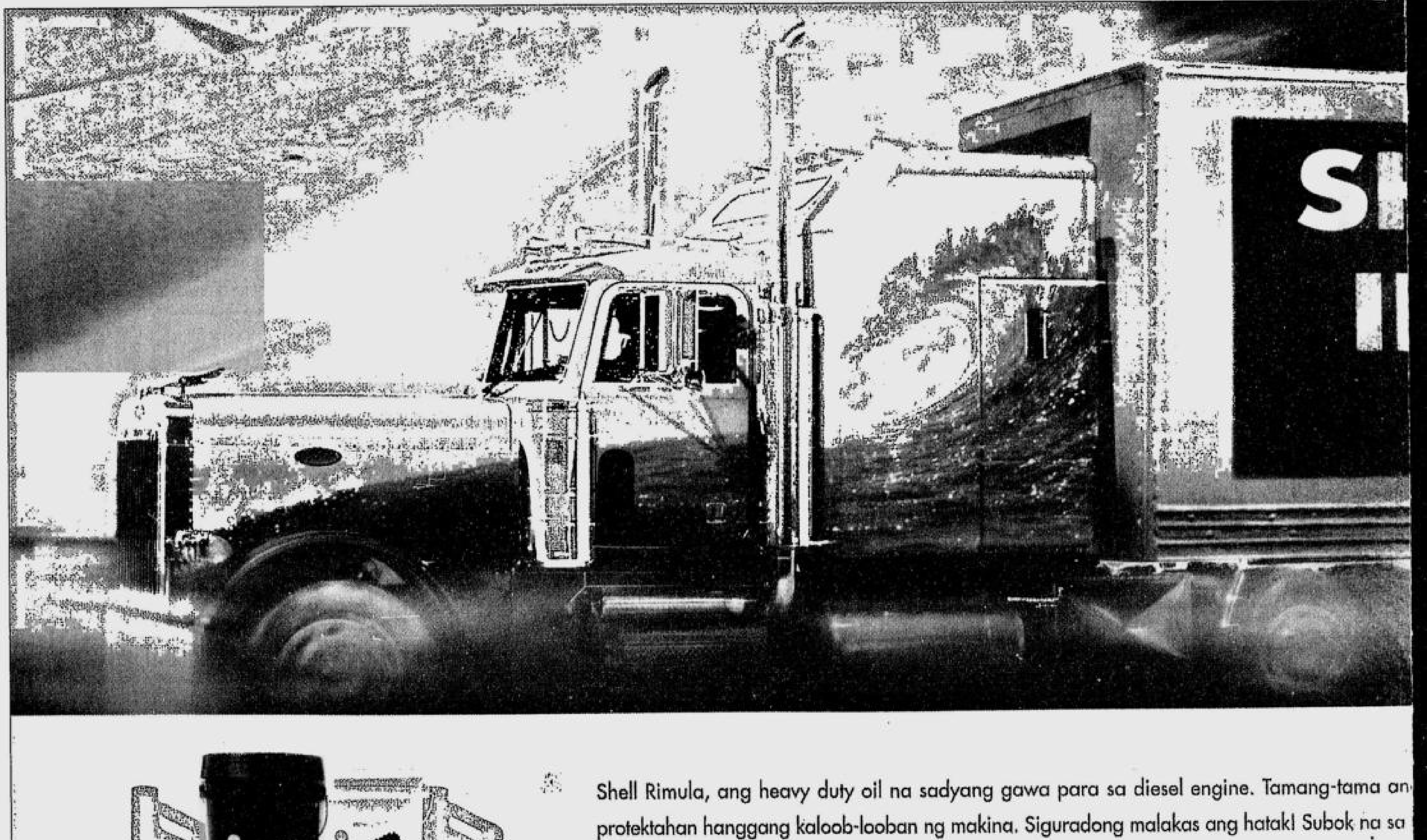
SEOUL—South Korea's industrial output fell in January and capital investment tumbled, suggesting that one of Asia's fastest-growing economies last year is slowing, data showed on Thursday.

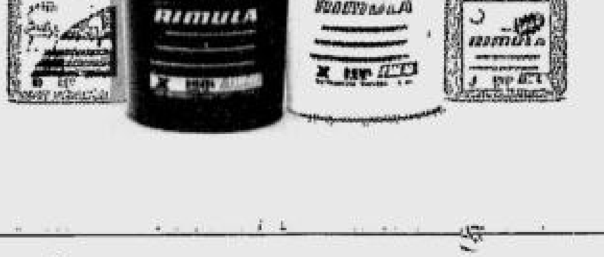
Industrial output fell a provisional 1.1 percent in January on the month after rising 1.3 percent in December, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said.

The seasonally adjusted reading was largely in line with a forecast for a 1.2-percent drop in a Reuters survey of 10 economists.

"The output data is clearly more proof that the economy is losing steam, hurt by lingering geopolitical uncertainties," said Kim Ki-seung, an economist at LG Economic Research Institute.

"The wait-and-see mentality will prevail for the time being, with no signs of recovery visible," he says. *Reuters*





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Euro zone GDP growth hits the brakes in Q4

FRANKFURT—GDP figures from countries representing nearly three-quarters of the euro zone economy showed growth virtually stalled in the fourth quarter last year, reinforcing prospects for cuts in the bloc's interest rates.

With exports hit, possibly due to the stronger euro, economists pieced together GDP numbers from Germany, Spain and Belgium on Wednesday with data already out for France and the Netherlands—and found that it added up to more gloom.

"The fourth quarter will see growth of just 0.1 percent and we think that the first and second quarters will be even weaker, because the full negative impact of an Iraq war will be felt," said Elga Bartsch, an economist at Morgan Stanley in London.

This means a decline in growth from between 0.3 and 0.4 percent per quarter in the previous three quarters, pegging the full year to just 0.8 percent growth after 1.4 percent in 2001.

Eurostat releases preliminary fourth quarter data for euro zone gross domestic product on March 6.

"It is not clear whether this slowdown is the beginning of a downturn or a blip, due to temporary factors like a possible war in Iraq," said Jose Alzola, an economist at Citibank in London.

"If these factors fade, then—with the help of a half point ECB cut—the higher trend may be resumed," he said.

His hopes on this score were lifted by better-than-expected confidence indicators this week, led by the German Ifo barometer of business which rose to 88.9 in February from 87.4 the previous month, bucking forecasts it would in fact fall.

"Ifo has reduced the probability that we are in a renewed downturn and reinforced the idea that this is a temporary blip.

But it is not enough to boost growth forecasts," he said.

So financial markets are still primed for a half point cut from the European Central Bank when it meets next, also on March 6, after ECB president Wim Duisenberg warned on Saturday that the bank no longer expected euro zone growth to reach potential this year.

Germany reported zero growth in the fourth quarter after a sharp fall in net export earnings and a contraction in public consumption wiped out a modest advance in private consumption and unexpected strength in business investment.

This confirmed German 2002 growth of just 0.2 percent, but soothed those who had feared that the country was in imminent danger of slipping into its second recession in two years.

Reuters

Mandarin Oriental Hotel's glamorous Valentine's show with premier violinist John Lesaca & RJ's daughters Nadine, Luccia & Bea and granddaughter Arianna Colamonici.

RJ's Super Successful February shows!!

Catch RJ TONIGHT 9pm at Mandarin Oriental Hotel's Captain's Bar! This Friday, RJ presents a reunited *"Technicolors"* with Edee and Louie Villanueva, Tony Tuviera, Paul Pascal and Joey Nacuspag! For reservations call 750-8888 and ask for Badette. For other inquiries call 893-3441 and ask for Eleanore.

RJ in Philippines, Inc. Dinner Dance with guests of honor President Gloria M. Arroyo & DTI Sec. Mar Roxas.

Dasmariñas Village ladies dancing to RJ's music during their Barangay Day.

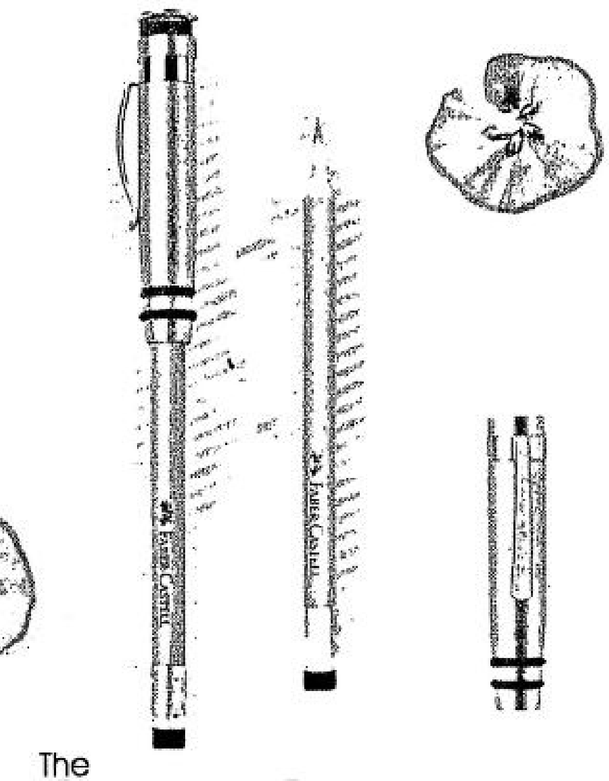
Pre-Valentine's Dinner Dance with RJ hosted by the Marikina Rotary Club in Riverbanks Marikina. The party had rotarians from 70 clubs all over Metro Manila dancing the night away.

Tagaytay Highlands Club Show with Hans Sy & Club President Jerry Tiu after RJ's 2½ hour post-valentine concert.

St. Scholastica's '63 Ruby Jubilarians with Amalie Azanza, Techie Villarama, Nori Deus, Elsa Mapua & classmates hold their reunion in Captain's Bar Mandarin Hotel.

Super energized Couples for Christ group dancing non-stop to RJ's music in World Trade Center.

ADVT.



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dwIZ now airs in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau

RADIO station dwIZ, the home of some of the country's top news broadcasters and commentators, now broadcasts live from the Philippines to Filipino migrant workers in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau.

Willie Tayag, dwIZ's executive vice president and general manager, said this is made possible under an agreement between Aliw Broadcasting Corporation, owner and operator of dwIZ, and Kabayan Radio and News Club (KRNC).

KRNC is a project that aims to inform, entertain and educate overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families by way of a live radio service "Kabayan Radio," Tayag said.

Edwin O. Cruz, Kabayan Radio general manager, said KRNC is currently expanding its coverage areas abroad "so we can be heard by majority of our OFWs and migrants by the end of this year."

In line with moves to expand its coverage worldwide, "Kabayan Radio" is also taking steps to extend its coverage in the Philippines through selected cable TV (CATV) networks and provincial radio stations, Cruz said.

"Kabayan Radio" abroad will initially start airing live dwIZ's programs on weekdays, from midnight to 10 a.m.

dwIZ is one of only six commercial radio stations in the AM band operating at 50,000 watts, reaching nearby Asian countries.

Among its well-known hard-hitting news broadcasters and commentators are Rey Langit, former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda with his regular co-anchors Senators Juan Flavier and Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and former Cabinet official Salvador Escudero, Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, newspaper columnists Jarius Bondoc, Ramon Tulfo, Alvin Capino and Jonathan de la Cruz.

LESACA

Furniture shop opens

VIOLINIST John Lesaca will serenade guests in the grand opening of Furnitalia Showroom, 6 p.m. tomorrow, March 1, at Designmix Building, Connecticut St., Greenhills.

The event, to be hosted by Cheri Mercado, will be graced by Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Noli de Castro, Italian Embassy Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Second Secretary Dr. Martin Brook, Commercial Attaché Cristina Corsi, noted interior designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Rep. Vicente Sandoval II and architect Chito Antonio.

Furnitalia's premier Italian brand Poltrona Frau, will be introduced during the event.

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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ralph fiennes
maid in manhattan
MaidInManhattan.com
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The best romantic comedy since 'Pretty Woman' is a perfect, feel-good date movie

International superstar Jennifer Lopez delivers another box-office winner in "**Maid in Manhattan**," a Cinderella romantic comedy in the tradition of "Pretty Woman" and "Princess Diaries."

A Number 1 box-office hit in the U.S., "**Maid in Manhattan**" is "an enormously enjoyable romance with something to say and a lot to feel," says David Sheehan of CBS-TV in America.

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George Permacchio, KABC-TV

" Heartfelt & Hilarious!"
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

"Delivers a sugar rush without the calories!"
Megan Turner, New York Post

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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3. Prizes indicated in the game stub will be given instantly.
4. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion.
5. Promo is valid in Glorietta, Alabang and Greenbelt Timezone centers only.

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-Andrea Jackson, WB-TV/Dayton, Ohio

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2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS	2 FOUR FEATHERS	2 THE GURU (EXCLUSIVE) 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 DAREDEVIL 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	2 TREASURE PLANET
3 DAREDEVIL	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 DAREDEVIL 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO Feb. 28 & Mar. 1	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TREASURE PLANET 20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30, 11:20	3 NGAYONG NANDITO KA
4 NGAYONG NANDITO KA	4 EXTREMIST		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	4 EXTREMIST
	5 TREASURE PLANET		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE 2:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55, 11:00	5 FOUR FEATHERS
	6 NGAYONG NANDITO KA			
	7 DAREDEVIL			

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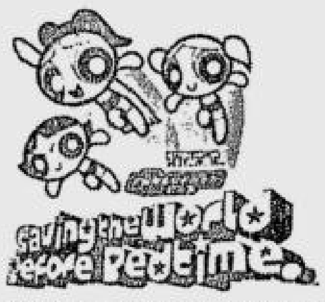
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Glorietta Activity Center

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11am, 3pm, 6pm
Activity Center

CEBU
Feb 28 4pm, 6:30pm
Mar 1 11am, 3pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm
Mar 2 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm
Activity Center

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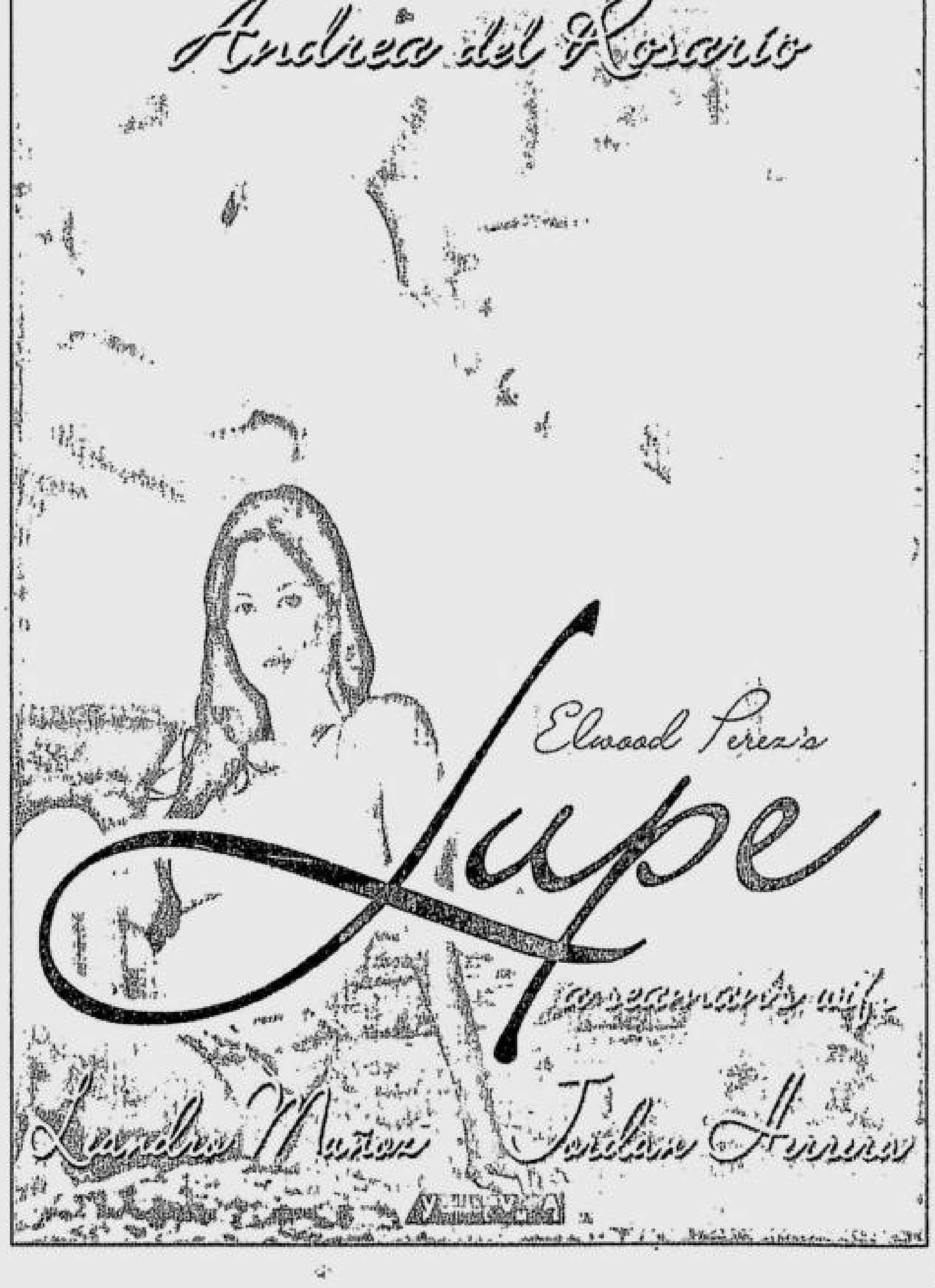
Andrea del Rosario



The 'Kid' is back, bringing hope and a new film with an old name

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

TOWERING CASTILLO. The director also known as Celso Ad. stresses that "Nympha" is not a remake of his '70s movie of the same title.

THE "KID" is back! Get ready for fireworks, on the screen and on the set.

Celso Ad. Castillo is known for his excellent films as well as for his erratic mood while shooting those films. He reigned over local cinema in the late '70s and '80s which saw a number of his works being considered classics: "Asedillo," "Burlesk Queen," "Nympha," "Paradise Inn," among others. All Celso Ad. Castillo movies are indeed a visual feast, and he has been compared with the late director Gerry de Leon whose approach to filmmaking was way ahead of his time.

Castillo directed Fernando Poe Jr. in four movies: "Asedillo," "Sto. Domingo," "Ang Alamat" and "Esteban." FPJ won his first Famas Best Actor trophy for "Asedillo."

Castillo has been a strong influence on other directors, particularly Peque Gallaga, the maker of such standouts as "Oro Plata Mata," "Scorpio Nights" and "Unfaithful Wife" who once said that Castillo is the greatest Filipino filmmaker.

Sexual awakening has always been a main ingredient of Castillo's movies, earning him the tag "master of sex in cinema."

A likeable and mellowed Castillo greeted the movie press at the poolside of the Imperial Palace in Quezon City where a mini press conference was held signalling his return to moviemaking. For the first time, he is not doing a movie for an independent company but for Mother Lily Monteverde's outfit, Regal Films.

Some of today's best directors have done "sex" movies for Regal. In year 2003, it is Castillo's turn to supply the demand for bold flicks. His contribution is called "Nympha."

"Nympha" is also the title of a movie Castillo wrote and directed during the '70s, and he considers it one of his best works. Shot in black and white, it starred a newcomer simply called Rizza.

"Nympha" is about a young sheltered girl who controls her lust through prayers. But the call of the flesh is stronger than her resolve to remain chaste and innocent. That movie had caused a sensation when it was first shown. It was condemned for being "pornographic" and at the same time was hailed as a work of art.

Not a remake

Castillo has been known to do movies that are a remake or are "inspired by" the original films. He did this with "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa," starring Gloria Diaz in the original version and Ruffa Gutierrez in the re-make.

But Castillo was not pleased with the loose adaptation of "Burlesk Queen (Ngayon)," directed by Joe Carreon. It was a question of ethics, Castillo says without elaborating.

But why do a remake of an original movie, we asked Castillo, who has evidently changed a lot since he embraced the Muslim faith.

"(The original) already has a following, which gives the producer an advantage at the box office," he explains. "But you can only make one after so many years. It has been thirty years since I did the original 'Nympha.'"

But he stresses: "I reiterate, it is not a remake. I altered some characters to suit the present condition."

He collaborated with scripwriter Roy Iglesias, who also wrote the script for the award winning Metro Manila Film Festival entry "Mano Po."

False talk

Nympha is played by Maricar de Mesa and it is her "boldest" movie to date. She gives vent to her lust in the most unexpected places and moments, and all five men in the movie oblige her, with tragic consequences.

Maricar admits she had heard negative talk about Castillo but she says it did not scare her at all.

"There were times I had to apologize for coming late," Maricar says. "All that talk about exploitation was untrue. In my case, anyway, I never felt exploited. And I don't think it will ever happen because once I sense there is something fishy, I will be the one to shout 'cut.'

"I respect him a lot because he is a good director, an institution, and he is very passionate in his work. I marvel at his dedication to filmmaking. Even the most passionate and erotic scenes came out with artistry."

Indeed, we watched the video assist and marvelled at the stunning visuals and moving performances.

Maricar says she is extremely satisfied with "Nympha" even if she nearly got sick after shooting in the rain for an entire night. Or even if she was bruised when she did love scenes in a cemetery, a warehouse, an open field and an orchard.

Reunion

"Nympha" is a reunion of sorts for Gloria Diaz and Castillo. He directed her in "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop," produced in 1973, four years after she won the Miss Universe title. It was Gloria who set the local trend known as "the wet look." She went on to become an award winning actress (for Tikoy Aguiluz' "Rizal sa Dapitan" and Lav Diaz' "Batang Westside."

In the new "Nympha," Gloria portrays Maricar's adoptive aunt who is a religious freak.

Introduced in the movie are Joseph Hizon, Cholo Medina and Bing Victoria who play Nympha's sex partners along with Dino Guevarra and Antonio Aquitania. Joseph is a product of "That's Entertainment." Cholo and Bing are basketball players.

A fixture in every Celso Ad.movie is a town idiot. In "Nympha," this role went to John Apacible.

Castillo shot "Nympha" in the beautiful old houses of Laguna, giving the movie stunning visuals and atmosphere. Castillo is in familiar territory, since he was born and bred in Siniloan, Laguna.

Dream project

During his absence from the local scene, Castillo made some movies and directed TV shows in Malaysia. He also stayed in Hawaii for sometime trying to make an English-language film called "Brown Sugar," but the movie never saw the light of day.

Aside from having a new faith, Castillo has a new family now. A son from his first wife is following in his footsteps as a director. A daughter named Monique is a professional singer in San Francisco.

Is there hope for the local movie industry, we asked the man whose previous works were among the brightest spots in Philippine cinema.

"We have survived 75 years so there must be hope," he replies. "What we need is to cultivate a new breed of viewing public and a new breed of filmmakers."

Celso Ad. has a dream project: a movie for Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks. The movie is to be called "Where the Willows Grow," about a Filipina bride. He realizes that penetrating Hollywood is a long, tough process but he doesn't mind waiting.

Meanwhile, the "Kid" is back, and that's a reason for rejoicing.

April Boys duo moves to Concorde

COLORFUL MUSIC CAREER. Vingo and Jimmy Regino release their Concorde debut album.

VINGO and Jimmy Regino, more popularly known as the April Boys duo, are on their way to a higher level as they move to a new "home," D'Concorde Recording Corporation.

Vingo and Jimmy have come out with a new album, "U2L," where they sing about the wonders of love and friendship.

With eight best-selling albums to their credit, April Boys appear to be heading to a more colorful music career that could surpass their achievements in the past years.

Among the original songs they popularized are "Ikaw Pa Rin ang Mamahalin," "Sana'y Mahalin Mo Pa Rin Ako," "Hindi Kita Ma-Reach," "Sana'y Tanggapin ang Pag-ibig Ko," "Tayong Dalawa Pa Rin," "Paulit-ulit" and very recently, "Labs Kita 'Lam Mo Ba?"

The duo has also been successful with Tagalog adaptations of Japanese hit songs, like "Honey, My Love, So Sweet" and "Paalam Na sa Iyo."

"We're glad and proud that Vingo and Jimmy are now with us," says Helen Salvana of Concorde Records. "They're great artists who should stay long in the limelight, not only to entertain people but also to serve as inspiration to others. Their debut album proves they have so much to give to the music industry."

Bannered by the carrier single "Kahit Mahirap Lang," the album also contains equally potential hits like "Nagmamahal ng Tapat," "Hanggang Ngayon," "DJ ng Aking Radyo," "Pa-promise Promise," "Hanggang Maaga," "Sana Maniwala Ka sa Akin" and "Di Madadala sa Langit."

Produced, arranged and composed by Vingo Regino, "U2L" is now available on both CDs and cassettes.

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FOUR FEATHERS P13 11:35,2:10,4:45, 7:20,10:00	EXTREMIST P13 11:35,1:40,3:45, 5:50,7:55,10:00	DAREDEVIL P13 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10

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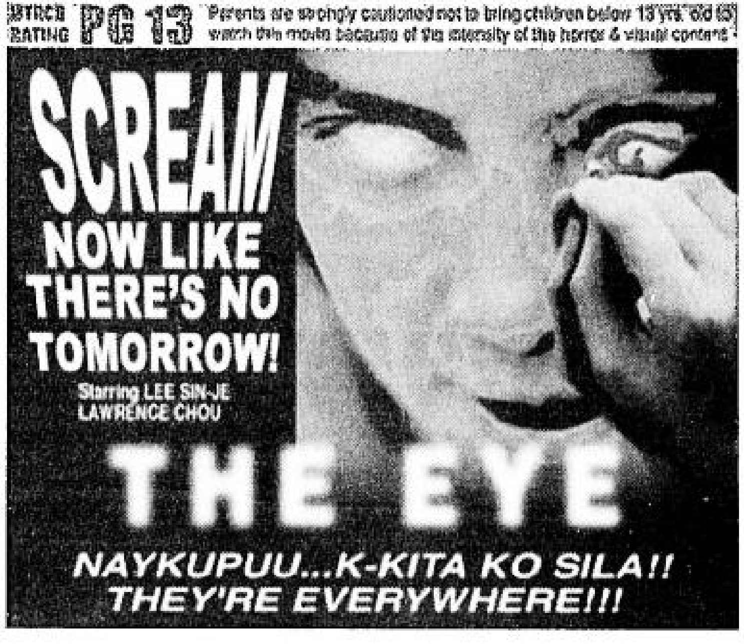

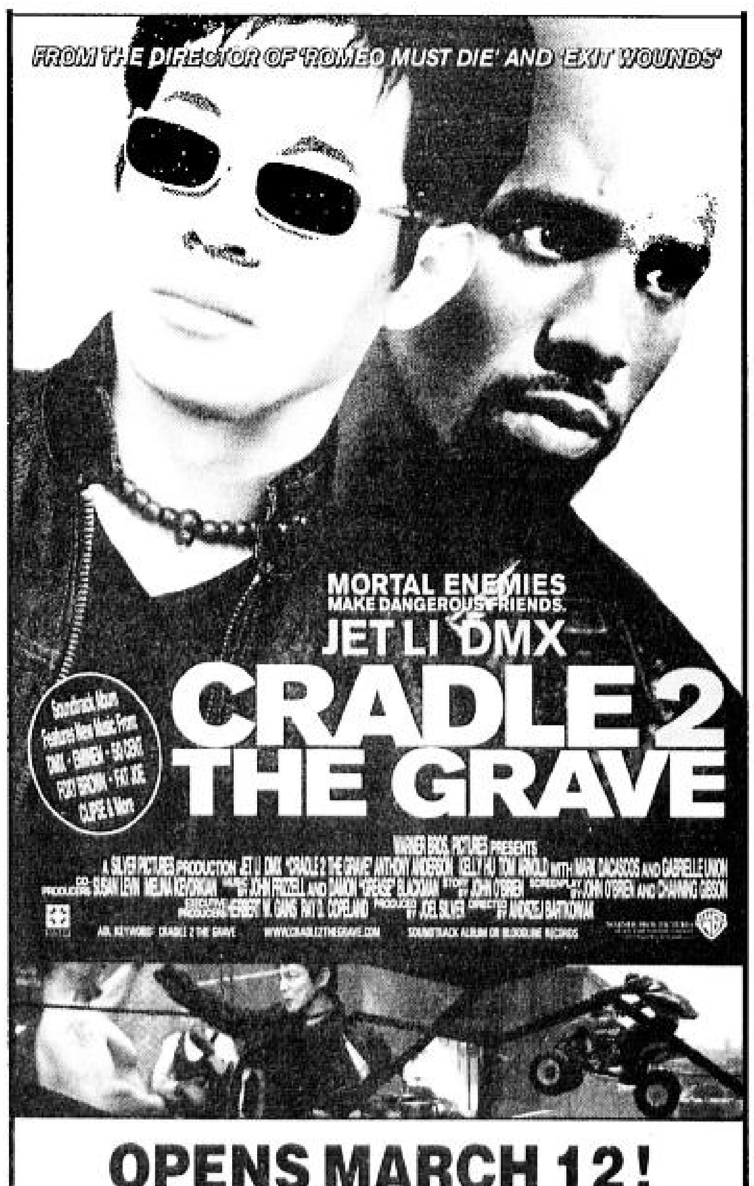

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	NGAYON NANDITO KA
Ali 2	NYMPHA
Ali 3	TREASURE PLANET
Ali 4	DAREDEVIL
Ali 5	FOUR FEATHERS
Ali 6	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
Ali 7	EXTREMISTS
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	LEGEND OF CROCODILE
Farmers 2	DAREDEVIL
ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 28	MARTIN & POPS CONCERT
MARCH 1	JOLINA MANIA CONCERT
MARCH 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
ELEPHANT WORLD	
FEB 28	10 AM / 3 PM
MAR 1	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM
MAR 2	3 PM / 5 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBAD NA MULTO / DOUBLE SEDUCTION
ODEON	EXTREMIST
ODEON-2	DROGA / SHIRLEY
ROBEN	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	TRANSPORTER / CHANGING LANES
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	NYMPHA
CORONET B	FEMME FATALE / STICKMEN
QUEZON-1	SAGAD
REMAR	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
REMAR-2	DAREVIL
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
B	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGA SAI 2003
CINEMA-2	TREASURE PLANET
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
CINEMA-2	NYMPHA
CINEMA-3	MAGNIFICO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DAREDEVIL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
CINEMA-6	AMAZON
CINEMA-7	AB NORMAL
CINEMA-8	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DAREDEVIL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXTREMIST
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FOUR FEATHERS
CINEMA-12	EXTREMIST
CINEMA-14	LEGEND OF THE CROCODILE
CINEMA-15	NGAYONG NANDITO KA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
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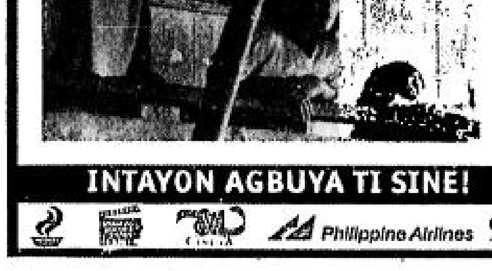

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the intestate estate of the late RODRIGO A. SALAZAR was extrajudicially settled w/waiver of rights among his heirs with Doc#134, Page#21, Book#1, Series of 2003 under Not. Pub. Nancy Quimpo of Caloocan City
(PDI-Feb. 28, Mar. 7 & 14, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUCIA LEABAN has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs PER DOC NO. 57; PAGE NO. 13 BOOK NO. 3; SERIES OF 2003 before notary public Atty. Jamir A. Bayot
PDI-February 21, 28 & March 7, 2003

PERSONAL

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Love,
Kleng,Yeye and Tricia

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 09, MANILA

IN RE: PETITION FOR ADOPTION
OF MINORS KEVIN CARMONA,
JOHN PHILLIPE CARMONA
and MARY CARMONA LIM,
SP. PROC. NO. 02-104531
LIZA CARMONA,
Petitioner.
x-----------------------------------x

ORDER

A verified petition for adoption having been filed with this Court on September 9, 2002 by Liza Carmona, through counsel, alleging that:

Petitioner is 34 years old, single, Filipino, and resident of 430-C Pioneer Townhouse, Pina Avenue, Sta. Mesa, Manila;

Petitioner was born in the Philippines and has been continuously residing thereat since birth up to present;

Petitioner has two illegitimate sons, namely, Kevin Carmona Lim, 11 years old, and John Phillipe, 1-1/2 years old. Xerox copies of their birth certificates are hereto attached as ANNEXES "A" and "B";

Sometime in 1989, petitioner's cousin, Teresita Carmona Lim, together with her husband, Lucky Galicia Lim, came to her to ask is she would like to take into her custody their fifth child, Mary Carmona Lim, who was born on October 10, 1987 at St. Francis Xavier General Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila. A Xerox copy of said child's birth certificate is hereto attached as ANNEX "C";

Aware of the financial difficulties which the said spouses are experiencing brought about by the number of their children and the fact that it was only her cousin's husband who was working for the family on irregular and temporary basis, petitioner agreed to take into her care and custody the minor Mary Carmona Lim;

Since her parents left her to the care and custody of the petitioner continuously up to the present, minor Mary Carmona Lim has been living with the petitioner;

Having taken care of Mary Carmona Lim after her custody had been given to her, the petitioner has treated her in all respect as if she is her biological daughter and as times goes by, petitioner' love, care and affection towards her had become more intense;

Petitioner's own children, Kevin Carmona and John Phillipe Carmona, who were born after petitioner had acquired custody of Mary Carmona Lim, had also learned to love and care for her as if she is their real sister;

The petitioner has decided to legally adopt Mary Carmona Lim pursuant to Philippine Laws specifically under Republic Act No. 8552;

By adopting Mary Carmona Lim, however, she will be entitled to all rights of a legitimate child of the petitioner to the prejudice of her two illegitimate sons especially in relation to succession;

To the remedy of the foregoing inequity, it is necessary that petitioner also adopt her two illegitimate sons;

Petitioner is willing to submit herself to examination and investigation by the legal authorities to determine if she is qualified to adopt Mary Carmona Lim and to undergo all pre-adoption and adoption procedures prescribed by law;

Petitioner is in possession of full civil capacity and legal rights, of good moral character, have not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude, emotionally and psychologically capable of caring for children, more than 16 years older than Mary Carmona Lim, and is in a position to support and care for the adoptees in keeping with the means of the family;

The biological mother of Mary Carmona Lim has given her consent to her adoption by the petitioner as evidenced by the consent to adopt, a Xerox copy of which is hereto attached as ANNEX "D". Her father's consent cannot be secured because his whereabouts is unknown since he left his wife and children sometime in 1995;

Petitioner's son, Kevin Carmona, has also given his consent to the adoption by the petitioner of Mary Carmona Lim as evidenced by the consent to adopt, a xerox copy of which is hereto attached as ANNEX "E";

WHEREFORE, it is most respectfully prayed that after due notice, publication and hearing, a decree of adoption be issued declaring the minors Kevin Carmona, John Phillipe Carmona and Mary Carmona Lim as the duly adopted children of the petitioner and as such, are entitled to all the rights and obligations conferred by law to adopted children.

It appearing that said petition is sufficient in form and substance, let the same be set for hearing on March 14, 2003 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Court sitting at Room 369. Third Floor, City Hall, Manila at which place, date and time, all persons interested and who may have opposition to the said petition may appear and show cause, if they have any, why said petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila, all at the expense of the petitioner.

Likewise, let a copy of this Order together with this Petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, the Local Civil Registrar of Manila and Ms. Ma. Belen A. Delizo, Social Worker of this Court, who is directed to conduct a social case study of the petitioners and the minor to be adopted and to submit her report and recommendation to this Court at least one (1) week before the scheduled hearing and to appear on the date and hour of the hearing.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, December 18, 2002.

(Sgd.) **AMELIA TRIA-INFANTE**
Presiding Judge

(PDI - Feb. 28, Mar. 6 & 12, 2003)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400 Fax No. 226-4885/224-5392

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery for the following items:

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1	1-unit 100HP Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 20 upgrading	Php 950,000.00
2	1-unit 75HP Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 21 upgrading	Php 650,000.00
3	1-unit 100HP Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 28 upgrading	Php 700,000.00
4	1-unit 75HP Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 29 upgrading	Php 850,000.00
5	1-unit 125HP Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 30 upgrading	Php1,000,000.00
	TOTAL:	Php4,150,000.00

Eligibility requirements per item package are available at the Purchasing Division Office Starting **February 21, 2003** during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on or before **March 7, 2003.**

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a Notice of Eligibility, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P300.00 per package starting **March 14 to April 7, 2003.**

Pre-bidding is set on **April 7, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. and the Opening of Bids on **April 11, 2003** at 9:00 a.m. at the DCWD Conference Room.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO E. LAID**
AGM for Administration
Chairman, Bid & Canvass Commitee

(PDI - Feb. 21 & 28, 2003)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400 Fax No. 226-4885/224-5392

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery for the following items:

Item Package	Description		Ceiling of Bid Price
1	7 units 450HP Horizontal Split Case Pump	Php	6,442,408.00
2	7 units 475HP Horizontal Electric Motors Open Drip Proof Type	Php	3,409,147.00
3	7 units 500HP Soft Start Controllers	Php	6,665,000.00
4	Capacitor Banking System	Php	1,750,000.00
	TOTAL:	Php	18,266,555.00

Eligibility requirements per item package are available at the Purchasing Division Office Starting **February 21, 2003** during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on or before **March 7, 2003.**

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a Notice of Eligibility, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 per package starting **March 14 to April 7, 2003.**

Pre-bidding is set on **April 7, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. and the Opening of Bids on **April 11, 2003** at 9:00 a.m. at the DCWD Conference Room.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the Dirstrict.

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO E. LAID**
AGM for Administration
Chairman, Bid & Canvass Commitee

(PDI - Feb. 21 & 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

To satisfy the real estate tax deliquency of the following taxpayers, computation of which includes interest surcharges and penalties thereon as of December 2002 and after substantially complying with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act 7160, the City Mayor through the undersigned City Treasurer, hereby gives notice to all interested parties and to the public in general that on **March 17, 2003 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Legislative Session Hall Bldg., Parañaque City,** the City Treasurer or his authorized representatives will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippines Currency, the real estate properties described below:

	Declared Owner/ Location	Area (Sq.m)	Classification/ Year	Tax Dec. #	Amount of Delinquency	Interest Due	Total Amt. of Delinquency
1.	Manila Bay Land Holding Inc. TCT-95324 Bgy. Tambo	70,000	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-06715	25,200,000.00	12,852,000.00	38,052,000.00
2.	Manila Bay Park Dev. Inc. TCT-135240 Bgy. Tambo	13,699	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-05803	410,970.00	209,594.74	620,564.74
	TCT-136449 Bgy. Tambo	7,154	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-06704	214,620.00	109,456.20	324,076.20
	TCT-136452 Bgy. Tambo	5,621	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-06707	1,770,615.00	819,451.80	2,590,156.80
	TCT-136454 Bgy. Tambo	6,868	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-06709	2,163,420.00	1,001,354.40	3,164,774.40
	TCT-136455 Bgy. Tambo	5,857	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-06710	1,884,955.00	853,950.60	2,698,905.60
	TCT-135242 Bgy. Tambo	21,567	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-06712	7,764,120.00	3,959,701.25	11,723,821.25
	TCT-135243 Bgy. Tambo	1,250	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-06713	37,500.00	19,125.00	56,625.00
	TCT-135244 Bgy. Tambo	1,250	Commercial 1999-2002	E015-06714	37,500.00	19,125.00	56,625.00
			Sub-Total Grand-Total				21,235,548.99 59,287,548.99

(Sgd.) **LIBERATO M. CARABEO**
City Treasurer

(PDI – February 21 & 28, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The **NATIONAL GRID INTERNATIONAL LTD., (NGIL)** is closing its operations in the Philippines effective February 28, 2003 as per Secretary's Certificate annexed hereunder.

Please address your communications to: The Resident Agent, P.O. Box 12618, Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City 1605.

(PDI – Feb. 28, March 7 & 14, 2003)

ATTN!!! Students, Reviewers, Affiliates, Bed Spacers & transient Boarders - Fully furnished **LADIES DORMITORY** now open to serve you at the back of UST, **NEAR UNIVERSITY BELT**, FEU, UE, SAN BEDA, at 1311 Geliños St., Sampaloc, Manila.

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ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT

Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Telephone No. 991-1556, 991-1557

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(2nd Invitation)

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting accredited suppliers/manufacturers of uPVC Pipes to submit bids for the supply of the following;

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT
uPVC Pipes, 250mm (10") x 6.00 meters Class 150, Series 8 B/S, with rubber rings	170	pcs

Interested bidders may secure the "INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS" during office hours from **February 28 to March 21, 2003** at the Records Section, 2/F, ZCWD Main Office Bldg., Pilar St., Zamboanga City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents, bids & bid securities shall be on or before 10:00 a.m. **March 24, 2003** at the above address. Bidders who participated & already submitted eligibility documents in the 1st bidding need not submit again.

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Feb. 28, 2003)

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MAKATI
8925578,
8114361
8114370

KALAW
5280213,
5273342

MEGAMALL
6350219,
6350220

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J. P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400 Fax No. 226-4885/224-5392

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery for the following items:

Item Package	Description	Ceiling of Bid Price
1	11-units Soft Start Controls and Capacitor Bank (For Dumoy Production Well Nos. 33, 34, 35 & 36, Tugbok Production Well Nos. 1 & 2, Malagos Production Well, Panacan Production Well Nos. 1 & 2, Alambre-Lubogan Production Well, New Loon Production Well)	Php. 2,738,927.30

Eligibility requirements per item package are available at the Purchasing Division Office starting February 21, 2003 during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on or before **March 7, 2003.**

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a *Notice of Eligibility*, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P300.00 per package starting **March 14 to April 7, 2003.**

Pre-bidding is set on April 7, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. and the Opening of Bids on April 11, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the DCWD Conference Room.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ALFONSO E. LAID
AGM for Administration
Chairman, Bid & Canvass Commitee

(PDI--Feb. 21 & 28, 2003)

IATSS FORUM

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Closing date : 31st March, 2003

Qualification: Men and women, no more than 35 years of age who have at least 2 years professional experience
Further Information: http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/iatss/forum/index.html

APPLY TO :
IATSS Forum Philippine Committee
Undersecretary Fortunato T. de la Peña, Chairman
c/o Department of Science and Technology, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, P.O. Box 3596, Manila, Republic of the Philippines
Tel/Fax: 837-2945 Email: ftdp@dost.gov.ph , carly@dost.gov.ph

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BCDA

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SALE/PURCHASE OR LEASE OF BCDA-OWNED UNITS IN PACIFIC PLAZA TOWERS, PART II

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the sale or lease of the second batch BCDA-owned units in Pacific Plaza Towers in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested proponents may submit to BCDA their Letters of Interest/Intent and can obtain the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 on Pacific Plaza Towers that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the bidding Brokers are welcome to sign up as interested proponents. Provided that they disclose the name of their clients in their Letter of Intent/Interest to be submitted to BCDA.

The TOR for the sale or lease of BCDA-owned units in Pacific Plaza Towers will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by first week of March 2003 at the BCDA offices.

A conference among interested proponents will be set on an announced date. The objective of the conference is to discuss the properties/units, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents/parties. Interested proponents/parties will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to BCDA.

Interested proponents/parties can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 2 COMMITTEE (ADP Com-2)
Pacific Plaza Towers, Part II
BCDA Corporate Centre
Gozar cor. Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa, Ms. Rosario Jongco and/or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.)
Chairman
ADP Phase 2 Committee

(PDI–Feb. 28, 2003)

LB (Land Bank) Realty Development Corporation

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION AND INTENT TO BID FOR LBRDC PROJECTS

All contractors, registered with and classified as **"SMALL"** and **"MEDIUM"** by Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) for Building and Industrial Plant, preferably with experience in the construction of renovation of bank buildings or project of identical scope and technology, are invited to submit company profile for short listing and accreditation. Interested contractors may submit their company profile at the following address:

Purchasing Unit
Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRDC)
30th Floor Land Bank Plaza
1598 M. H. Del Pilar St., cor. Quintos St.
Malate, Manila

For further details please call Jerry Milton D. Minguillan/Allan G. Redondo at 405-7169 or 405-7402.

(Sgd.) **BUENO B. CASTILLO**
President and General Manager

(PDI--Feb. 3, 16 & 28, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

February 12, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

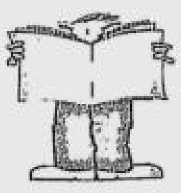
The National Housing Authority through the Bids and Awards Committee is inviting interested geodetic engineers to register and submit eligibility documents for the following survey project.

Contract Package/Location	Approved Budget (mil.)	Source of Funds	Contract Duration	Work Description/ Duration
Survey works for Special Patent Title of Manila Cadastre Area Encompassed by AO 503 and Lot Titling in Tondo Foreshore Project, Tondo, Manila	P1.673	Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2002	300 cd	Boundary, lot inventory consolidation, and subdivision surveys, individual lot titling and issuance of special patent

A. Instruction in the Registration and Eligibility of Consultants shall be issued from **February 24, to March 12, 2003**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P200.00. The list of basic requirements is available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2/F, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City. For more information, please see or contact the BAC Secretariat at phone no. 929-80-16 and 928-45-61/65 local 262.
B. Deadline of submission of Letter of Intent is on **March 10, 2003.** Submission of eligibility requirements is on **March 21, 2003,** not later than 10:00 a.m. at the office of the BAC Chairman. The bidders shall be informed of the date of issuance of Terms of Reference.
C. Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.
D. The provisions of the IRR of EO 40 shall govern all particulars relative to registration, eligibility screening, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract.
E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Feb. 21 & 28, 2003)



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SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
and the
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

deeply mourn the passing away of a
distinguished colleague

HONORABLE ANTONIO M. ABAYA

Congressman, 4th District, Isabela
8th, 9th, 10th, 12th Congress

who joined his Creator last Wednesday, February 26, 2003
at the age of 68.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Santiago City, Isabela.

Interment will be announced later.

We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God -- my Saviour,
For He has looked with favor on His lowly servant"

Odilon S. Aguas

February 22, 1923 - February 22, 2003

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 80.

His loving wife, **Bayang**;
his children, **Tessie** & **Jun**, **Jess**, **Eddie** & **Arlene**, **Mar** & **Nina**, **Art** & **Mona**,
John & **Amy**, **Joey** & **Cosette**, **Robert** & **Meanne**, and **Omar** & **Epie**;
his 24 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren;
his sisters, **Lucing** & **Salud** and his brother, **Bidong**,
and his relatives and friends.

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body, now lying in state at the Forrest Lawn Chapel in Glendale, California will be flown in on Sunday, March 2, 2003 and brought to the Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish at Forbes Park, Makati City.

On Tuesday, March 4, 2003, the body will be brought to the hometown of the deceased in Floridablanca, Pampanga at the St. Joseph's Parish Church.

Interment will be at the Floridablanca Catholic Cemetery on Thursday, March 6, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

So Lovingly Remembered
So Sadly Missed

VIRGILIO M. GARCIA

on his 10th Death Anniversary
February 28, 2003
Please join us in prayer for the eternal
repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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ELENITA M. VILLARANTE

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 26, 2003.

She is survived by sisters **Tessie Nayve**, **May**, **Edna** & **Bernd**, **Boniec**; brothers **Virgilio** & **Diana**, **Danny** & **Noemi**; nephews **Jay**, **Carlo**, **Jeffrey** & **Cedric**; nieces **Tina**, **Mela**, **Claudine**, **Jea**, **Nadine** & **Daniel Andoniu**; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Don Bosco Charity Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

LORENZA JASMIN MANGABAT

BORN ON MARCH 26, 1920
Peacefully joined her Creator on February 24, 2003.

Her bereaved family, husband **Ricardo C. Mangabat** (†), sons **Antonio** (†) & **Narciso**, daughter & son-in-law **Letty** & **Bernard**, sons & daughters-in-law **Al** & **Ellen**, **Rene** & **Alice**; grandchildren **Darwin** & **Dalton**, **Apol**, **Eunice** & **Yazmine** & **Giancarlo** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 9:00 a.m. March 02, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me
all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house
of the Lord for years to come..."
Psalm 23:6

ATTY. LEON C. VINOYA

of Piddig, Ilocos Norte
June 28, 1910 - February 26, 2003

Lovingly gave up his life of prayerful witness
to God's goodness and comforted by the Last Sacraments

His late wife **Rufina** (†); grateful children **Ariel** and **Purificacion Cardenas, Sonia** and **Ernesto Liwanag, Laura, Sr. Celia, O.P., Mario** and **Yolanda Lorenzo, Lydia** and **Jonny Duffy**, and **Sr. Noemi, FSP**; his sister **Consolacion** and brothers **Pascual** (†), **Luis, Sr**. and **Arnulfo**; grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to celebrate with them in prayer God's generosity made manifest in Leon's ninety-three years.

His remains may be viewed at his residence at #421 2nd St., Honradez Extension, Sampaloc, Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life and I shall live in
the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

MA. LEA MENEZ VELANTE

of Proj. 4, Q.C. & Kalibo, Aklan

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord
on the 23rd day of February 2003 at the age of 88.

Her late loving husband **Troadio**; her children and in-laws **Lolly** (†) & **Jun, Boy & Mina, Bobby & Chit, Odie & Chita, Tabby, Edna, Jayvee & Liza**, brothers & sisters, grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Chapel A, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 1, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Project 4, Quezon City.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

GENERAL ROMEO C. ESPINO (Ret)

FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Who peacefully passed into the loving arms
of the Lord on February 17, 2003

wish to express our deep appreciation
to all who kindly offered Holy Masses and
prayers, participated in necrological services, assisted
with funeral arrangements,
sent flowers, cards, messages of sympathy, kept vigil
and attended the funeral services.

Thank you all, very much.

ESTELA TEOTICO LICAUCO

San Juan, Metro Manila
January 18, 1913 - February 27, 2003

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 90.

Her husband **ELADIO** (†); children **ANTONIO, FLORA, LUCIANO** (†), **JAIME, MARIANO, MILAGROS, EXEQUIEL**; children-in-law **BELEN BENITEZ, ONOFRE CANDELARIA, ROSARIO PARAYNO, YOLANDA CAMPOS, REYNALDO AGREGADO** and **ALBERT**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque on Sunday, March 2, 2003, after the 3 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory of

TEODOMERO "ODONG" MACLANG YÑIGUEZ

of Pura, Tarlac

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness
of the Lord on 26 February 2003 at the age of 81.

His loving wife **Isabel Cinco Yñiguez** and children **Tony & Judy, Ching & Wesley Say, Peter & Jane, Juancho & Rose** and **Isa**; grandchildren **Beljo & Yagi, Huggy & Niki, Katie, Ana & Izel**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Solace 1, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 2 March 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Retired Collector
Braulio D. Rugay Sr.

Korean War Veteran
joined his Creator last February 25, 2003
at the age of 71

His remains lie in state at Floresco – Heritage Memorial Chapels (Dagat-Dagatan Ave. cor. Maya-maya St., Kaunlaran Village, Malabon City) and will be transferred to Rugay Law Offices (Barrio Hall, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City) on February 28.

Interment will be at the Divine Shepherd Memorial Park, Cagayan de Oro City.

He is survived by wife **Josefina**; son **Braulio Jr.**; daughter **Loinda**; daughter-in-law **Zenona** & grandchildren **Lorybeth, Donn Braulio, Noelle Ann Faith & Junee Donna**.

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Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF JOGGING PANTS for the Philippine Air Force.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P 13,149,038.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held on **March 18, 2003, 9:30 A.M.** at the **PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **February 28, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **April 03, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. **563-94-02 or 563-93-74.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--Feb. 28, & Mar. 7, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF IT EQUIPMENT for the Department of Education (DepEd).**

The approved budget for this contract is **P18,498,614.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held on **March 13, 2003, 9:30 a.m., Tuesday,** at the **PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **February 28, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **April 1, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., Thursday.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 563-9402 or 563-9374.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI - Feb. 28 & Mar. 7, 2003)

Gov't to form marketing firm for mining projects

BAGUIO CITY—Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun is forming a government corporation that will market the mining industry to foreign investors, a Bureau of Mines and Geosciences official here said.

Neoman de la Cruz, Cordillera MGB director, said the proposed National Mining Corp. (NMC) would free the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from conflicts of interest related to its mandate as the country's environmental police.

De la Cruz said the NMC, a possible subsidiary of the DENR's National Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), would directly respond to President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic reforms for the country's metals market.

"In the remaining 17 months of the Macapagal administration, we hope to generate $242 million in mining investments for 12 mining projects that will yield about $147 million in potential revenues yearly," Gozun said during a visit last month to Philex mines in Tuba, Benguet.

Gozun said the industry could earn for the country $1.8 billion from 10 mining projects in five years, and $2.15 billion in 10 years.

These earnings are "about eight times" of what the mining industry is now generating, she said.

The NMC would also address government's new stake in Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley in Mindanao.

The DENR's new government-controlled service contracts, which were inspired by an experimental program of the Benguet Corp. in Itogon, Benguet, helped stabilize the gold rush at the Diwalwal area in Mt. Diwata. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Manufacturing output down 5%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S top 500 manufacturers saw a 5-percent contraction in output in December from the year-ago level. This came after the manufacturing industry posted a flat performance in November.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the continuing drop in manufacturing volume was led by the producers of basic metals, whose output fell by 45.6 percent.

Four other sectors recorded a double-digit reduction in manufacturing volume in December such as : publishing and printing (35.3 percent); petroleum products (22.8 percent); chemical products (21.3 percent), and wood/wood products (10.8 percent).

The sectors that posted double-digit increases in output despite the sluggish business environment in the month covered were: textile (43.7 percent); nonelectrical machinery (25.1 percent); transport equipment (24.3 percent); fabricated metal products (21.7 percent); non-metallic mineral products (20.8 percent), and tobacco (20.1 percent).

The volume of production index likewise fell on a month-on-month basis by 4.5 percent in December.

The value of the manufacturing output stood almost flat with a meager 0.6 percent improvement in December from a year ago compared with the 4.6-percent expansion in November.

The average capacity utilization went down slightly to 74.8 percent in December from 75.4 percent in November.

The proportion of manufacturing firms that operated at full capacity (90-100 percent) was only 21.8 percent. About 36.8 percent operated at 70 to 89 percent capacity while 41.5 percent operated below 70 percent capacity.

The sectors that posted more than 80 percent capacity utilization were those manufacturing petroleum products, non-electrical machinery, paper/paper products, rubber shoes and tobacco.

Former Economic Planning Secretary and incumbent director of Ateneo de Manila macroeconomic research unit Cielito Habito said had been no pressure for local manufacturers to increase capacity due to slower demand for Philippine exports.

Even domestic consumption was likely to slow down, Habito stressed, due to the uptrend in the inflation rate this year. He also noted that the sanctions that might be imposed by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force on the Philippines would likely slow down the inflow of remittances from overseas Filipinos, a big factor boosting domestic consumption over the years.

As such, Habito said the country must brace for a tough year ahead and must not rely on export earnings to boost economic growth in 2002.

"We must support domestic demand without dropping moves to enhance competitiveness," he said, referring to the ongoing tariff liberalization.

Habito said the Middle East crisis was already leading to higher oil prices and weakening of the peso.

"It will also lead to an export slowdown because of lower demand from most of the country's trade partners. It will also lead to sluggish flow of investments," Habito said.

BSP readies good governance measures for banks

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has agreed to three measures proposed by the Institute of Corporate Directors to further improve corporate governance of the country's banks.

One of the proposals is the imposition of a corporate governance course requirement on all bank directors. Bankers will also be encouraged to take up special courses on risk management and audit, and to participate in a regular annual ICD-assisted self-assessment review.

"The entire Monetary Board has agreed to the proposals and they are now working out the specifics," ICD president and former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said in an interview Wednesday, before the inauguration of the institute's new offices in the Yuchengco Tower.

Estanislao said the BSP would require all bank directors, starting with independent directors, to undergo a certificate course on corporate governance. At present, they are required only to go through an orientation program on this subject.

Results of the first self-assessment survey conducted by ICD recently showed that Philippine commercial banks scored poorly in meeting corporate governance standards.

The self-assessment survey covering 22 commercial banks highlighted several priority areas for immediate attention and action by the banks.

"We found that, for one, many board of directors were still not involved in strategic issues. Many boards here are merely rubber stamps," Estanislao said in a press briefing last month.

He said there was a need for the banks' boards to set up their annual agenda and to ensure that the topics were fully covered.

The former finance secretary also noted that, based on the results, many bank boards were not looking closely at their company's audited financial statements.

They have not been looking into treasury operations, an increasingly dominant contributor to bank revenue.

Taken as a whole, the 22 commercial banks gave themselves a weighted score of 6.33 for corporate governance items under the broad heading of "the board," 7.21 for the items under "The chairman," 8 for "members of the board," 6.52 for "board meetings," and 7.33 for "board committees and board issues."

RP: Haven ...

From page B6

other effective anti-smuggling measures, such as the 100-percent inspection of refrigerated vans, the clearance of both quarantine and customs officials prior to any imported agricultural products being released, and the government-private sector partnership in other joint projects. This will prevent the diversion of some of the smuggling from Metro Manila to other ports in the Philippines.

- Finally, there will be no smuggling if there are no smugglers. These smugglers come from both the private and government sectors. Smugglers need government collusion to succeed. There should be updated reports on the charges being made and the status of these charges. This update should be provided to a combined government and private sector anti-smuggling group in all appropriate areas in the country and publicized to ensure transparency.

Conclusion

Seven months ago, the Philippines was both a haven and heaven for smugglers. Today, in Metro Manila, this has largely stopped due to the combined effort of the government and the private sector. Commissioner Bernardo and the Cordillera farmers, with the support of their governors, spearheaded this effort. But in other parts of the country, this is not the case. It is, therefore, important for the appropriate anti-smuggling structures to be put into place in those areas with the corresponding severe penalty mechanisms. The entire Philippines should become a living hell for smugglers, considering the suffering they have caused our people, specially small farmers and fisherfolk. *(Ernesto M. Ordoñez is chair of Agriwatch. For inquiries or suggestions, contact email address agriwatchphil@yahoo.com, telefax 02-8516635)*

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Intensity G heats up Baguio

BAGUIO'S festive and colorful Panagbenga Festival, which culminated last Sunday, was Globe Telecom's latest venue for reinforcing its strength as the leader in digital mobile communications.

Hot on the heels of highly successful regional roadshows in Sinulog in Cebu and Dinagyang in Iloilo, its major sponsorship of the Panagbenga Festival was a way for the telecom giant to reach out and connect to as many Filipinos as possible. Globe kicked off the festivities with a motorcade topbilled by their popular image model, July (aka Julio Jose). This generated extra excitement for the festival via a tour of the city streets and live interviews aired on local FM stations.

Globe furthered its imposing presence throughout the festivities when July did a Gentxt Bar Tour, passing through 18 B.C. and Gimbals. Additionally, young locals and festival tourists enjoyed the huge street party sponsored by Globe at Melvin Jones.

What proved to be the biggest crowd drawer at the Panagbenga festival however was Globe's Intensity G sale blitzes at Burnham Park, Pines Multi-Telecom outlets and Session Road where Globe gave Baguio locals the chance to own their very own Globe Handyphones at very affordable prices.

Globe's Intensity G sale brought to Baguio a wide range of mobile phone products, such as the new Globe Hi-Memory SIM, the latest handsets, new pre-paid phone kits and attractive new deals and promotions for Globe postpaid line applications.

Buda Concio, Globe's AVP for Globe Pre-Paid said, "Our participation at the Panagbenga Festival showcased Globe's increasing coverage and network capacity nationwide. It also gave us an opportunity to touch base with and thank our many Baguio subscribers for making and keeping the Globe connection over the years."

Myolita T. Santos, a 22-year-old Baguio local and loyal Globe subscriber said, "I am really happy with the way Globe's network is so reliable. Di ko pa na-experience sa three years kong gumagamit ng Globe na hindi ako naka-connect."

Baguio folks, particularly Globe subscribers, certainly had their hands full with the fun activities held during the Panagbenga Festival. While the temperature in Baguio was relatively cool, the presence of Globe in the City of Pines certainly made it hotter.

This marks another victory for Globe's Intensity G nationwide tour. Everyone is advised to be part of even more exciting activities from the pioneer in digital communications.

Caption:

LIKE JULY! Everybody at the Panagbenga Festival in Baguio wanted to be like July.

LIKE JULY! Everybody at the Panagbenga Festival in Baguio wanted to be like July.

RJ PRESENTS TECHNICOLORS AT CAPTAIN'S BAR

This Friday, Feb. 28, RJ Jacinto presents a reunited and new Technicolors, a popular '60s band which has not performed in many years. With the original members still intact, former fans of the Technicolors will be delighted to see Andy Javier, Lito Domantay, Paul Pascal, Joey Nacuspag, Edee Villanueva, Tony Tuviera, Louie Villanueva, Snare Mata and Larry Javier dish out shadows instrumental numbers as well as classic rock hits of the '60s and '70s. The Technicolors were known for their discriminating taste and their penchant for having the best equipment. RJ and Friends will be playing the first set from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. and the Technicolors will be doing its complete set afterwards. For reservations call 750-8888 and look for Linette.

Academies Manila and the gifted child: a perfect match

GIFTED individuals are those identified by professionally qualified persons to possess natural abilities (demonstrated or potential) in any of the different ability domains, to an outstanding degree. They may have natural abilities in one or a combination of these domains: general intellect, specific academic aptitude, creative or productive thinking, leadership ability, and visual and performing arts aptitude.

The degree to which the gifted individual possesses these abilities places him or her among the top 5 percent of age peers and makes him or her capable of high performance.

What do you look for in a potentially gifted toddler? A high level of curiosity is often the most immediate sign of giftedness, but you also should look for early development in motor skills (ability to execute large and small motor tasks with ease), quantities (large vocabulary, long attention span, long and often complex sentences, fast absorption of knowledge) and comparisons (compared to other children: finds more ways to use toys and tools, an imaginative approach to activities, concocts creative solutions to problems, shows deeper understanding of questions and answers from adults).

To notice a toddler's special talents before they attend school is beneficial to their development. If they receive the support, guidance, and instruction that are appropriate to their skills, they're more likely to reach their full potential. As a parent, you are your child's first teacher. Be observant and encouraging.

Academies Manila-School for the Talented and Gifted on Abada Street in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, has the unique responsibility of serving children with outstanding intellectual ability, their parents, and the community.

Academies Manila serves the gifted and talented community by providing innovative preschool education, alternative extra-curricular enrichment classes for intellectually gifted learners and high achievers in grade school and high school, and up-to-date information for their families and educators.

Academies Manila strives for an optimal match between the level and pace of instruction, method and materials, and the student's interests, level of achievement and rate of learning. Academies Manila's programs extend students in their achievements rather than replace any one important area of the curriculum with additional studies in another.

For individualized instruction to be possible, classes are kept small. This allows the teacher to get to know each student well and to tailor the curriculum to fit the student's profile. Classes at Academies Manila are composed of five students and two adults.

Academies Manila is a member of the National Association for Gifted Children in the United States. For inquiries, call 433-2551 / 9265920 / 0918-9260950.

Bits & Clips

Grand sale on SM

THE BIG 3-day simultaneous sale events at SM City Fairview, SM Southmall Las Pinas, SM City Pampanga and SM City Cebu are slated for Feb. 28, March 1 and 2. The 4-pronged sale events offer up to 50-percent markdowns on great selections mallwide. SM Supermallers in these areas who are on the lookout for choice buys and great deals on groceries, apparel, toys, infant essentials and home furnishings will definitely go wild over the terrific savings offered by participating tenants in all four malls. Feb. 28, the first day of the sale, heralds the end of the current schoolyear and the onset of the summer break. Mall hours are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in Fairview and Las Pinas and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. in Pampanga and Cebu.

A concert for peace

BE AT the Commonwealth Grounds of UP Diliman, today, Feb. 28 until the sun rises on March 2 and witness the best of our local bands and solo artists play their music for peace. Dubbed as "Rock for Peace, Rage Against War," this peace concert is sponsored by Peace Camp or Campaign for Peace with Justice, the broadest alliance of peace advocates from different people's, non-governmental, religious and faith-based organizations in the country. Hear classic, heavy metal, acid, folk, reggae, ethnic, ska, rap, punk, hardcore to pop music from celebrated bands and artists. The music extravaganza starts at 5 p.m. For early birds, Peace Camp will offer mini-camp activities like poetry reading, on-the-spot painting, tattoo and henna sessions. For inquiries, call Peace Camp at 0917-4282358/0919-3124528/0919-2163243.

Digital MP3 from Palm

GET A free Creative Digital MP3 Player with every purchase of a Palm Tungsten T, Palm's most powerful and compact handheld. This offer also applies when you purchase a Palm m515. This promo is ongoing until today, Feb. 28. From its original price of P28,000, the Tungsten T is now available for only P21,900 during the promo period. It has a five-way navigator button, an ultra-sharp color screen, voice recorder and armed with a powerful ARM-based processor that lets you manage important files like Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Slim and savvy, the m515 is a blast for those in search of stunning graphics. It features a bright color screen that supports over 65,000 colors. The Creative Digital MP3 Player has a crystal clear digital audio that provides long-lasting entertainment on the move.

NREA meet today

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue will brief the members of the National Real Estate Association (NREA) on the new implementing guidelines of the Value Added Tax applicable to realty services during the monthly NREA business meeting on Feb. 28, 1 to 4:30 p.m. at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Guest speaker BIR Regional Director Danilo A. Duncano will focus on VAT applicable to services rendered by subdivision developers, real estate brokers, property lessors, and by other property practitioners. For particulars, NREA members can call 913-4463 or 912-3492.

AME marketing confab

THE ASSOCIATION of Marketing Educators (AME) will hold its 13th annual National Marketing Conference today, Feb. 28, at the Pasay Ballroom of the Shangrila Hotel in Makati. The AME is an aggrupation of marketing professors representing more than 100 of the leading colleges and universities all over the Philippines. The theme of this year's conference is "Different Strokes: The Marketing Power." Becky Alivio, vice-president manufacturing refining of Caltex Philippines Inc., has been invited to deliver the keynote address on the topic "Driving Force Economy: Its Impact to Corporate Marketing and Education." Other session speakers are Aniceto B. Fontanilla, David Inocencio, Ricardo C. de Vera, Tim Capellan, John Lu Koa and Dr. F. Landa Jocano. All sessions will be followed by an open forum.

Lifestyles' National Gala

LIFESTYLES Asia Pacific Philippines Inc. announces the upcoming National Gala this March 1, 7:30 a.m., at the Manila Hotel. Distinguished guests Lifestyles chair David DeBora, Lifestyles president David Drutz, vice president for product research and development Paul Kramer and vice president for international business development Warren Te Brugge from its Canada management office will be on hand to join Philippine distributors in celebrating Lifestyles' success in the past years on people's health and providing them the best business opportunities. The Lifestyles National Gala, which is conducted consecutively in over 17 countries, offers a wealth of information. In line with this, on April 25 to 27, the biggest Lifestyles event will be held in Toronto, Canada. For more information, call Lifestyles Philippines at 725-9098.

Outback's Auss'm treat offers 40 percent off

STAYING strong in a tough business such as the restaurant industry is reason enough for a celebration. What more if you're celebrating your 15th year? That's got to be bonzer, mates!

Outback Restaurant International, which marks another milestone with its 15th anniversary this 2003, recognizes that its success wouldn't have been possible without the support of its guests. To celebrate, Outback Restaurants in the Philippines are launching an Auss'm blowout that would have diners saying "This way to the tucker!"

Imagine all of Outback's tempting menu options available at 40 percent less than their original prices. This includes its bestselling The Outback Special, Botany Bay Fish O' the Day, Queensland Chicken & Shrimp, and Kookaburra Wings, as well as its new popular items like the Toowoomba Pasta, Bib N' Tucker, Coogee Bay Calamari, and North Atlantic Salmon. And don't forget there's a tempting dessert selection to binge on as well.

Take advantage of this special offer from Monday to Friday, 2 to 6 p.m at Outback Glorietta IV and every Friday (lunchtime) at Outback Libis. This is available for a limited period so better make that trek to the restaurants now.

Outback Restaurant's other branch is at the Alabang Town Center.

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AYALAPORT, TREND-MICRO'S VIRUS SOLUTION

AyalaPort Makati Inc. and Trend Micro Inc. have agreed to jointly offer custom-managed anti-virus security solutions and services via subscription. According to AyalaPort Makati president Mark Javier (3rd from left), these services enable customers to quickly deploy a cost-effective, end-to-end security program in two ways. First, clients will use Trend Micro's solutions without the cost of investing in software licenses since services will be paid for on a subscription basis. Second, customers will also leverage AyalaPort's 24x7 data center facility and technical assistance to immediately address security threats. Trend Micro Philippines business development director Jeffrey Sy said a key benefit of this joint service is the availability of an immediate cure to new viruses as well as the detection of possible bug attacks and elimination of primitive viruses embedded in data files and computer servers. Shown are Kay Lenz Rumaguera, Trend Micro Philippines channels business associate manager, Sy, Javier, and AyalaPort business development head Herns Hermida.

VERITAS BACKUP EXEC 9.0

Veritas Software Corp. recently unveiled Backup Exec 9.0 for Windows Servers. This latest version of the market-leading Backup Exec has 99 documented product enhancements, including fastest exchange server backup and restore, first to leverage Microsoft Windows Server 2003 technology, first anywhere Internet interface, and fastest, simplest installation for Windows data protection. Shown is Darric Hor, regional business development manager for Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, discussing the award-winning technology.

Product FILES

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Booths: Robinsons Place Manila Level 1 • Robinsons Place Novaliches Level 1 • Shangri-la Mall Level 1 • Festival Supermall 2nd Level • Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Ground Level • The Enterprise Center Level 3(Feb 24-Mar 1) • RCBC Plaza Podium 3(Mar 3-8) • Robinsons Place Imus Level 1• Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa Level 1 •Robinsons Place Cebu Lower Ground • Robinsons Place Bacolod Level 1 • Robinsons Big R Supercenter Cagayan de Oro Level 2 • Gaisano Mall of Davao Upper Ground Level

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BUSINESS Friday
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

FOCUS ON HIGH-END GOODS

Get to know China's wants and needs

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

IN ONE phrase, China's market is a giant mixed bag. A past special issue of Newsweek (Fall/Winter 2002) on China speaks not of one country but of five.

They are different worlds, and the sharp Filipino exporter should be able to segment them.

The richest segment is loosely defined as the diaspora, or the scatter of Chinese communities across the globe. These include territories like Taiwan and Hong Kong. Their total gross domestic product is estimated at $ 1 trillion, held by a population of 55 million.

Wealthy coastal provinces

The second richest consists of the coastal zones. Besides Beijing, these include the provinces Shandong and Zhejiang, Jiangsu of Shanghai fame, Fujian, which is across Taiwan, and Guangdong, which borders Hong Kong.

The total population of the coastal provinces is 374 million, with a GDP of $ 549 billion. Most importantly, 78 percent of all foreign direct investment in China goes to these coastal areas.

Less wealthy are the other 3 Chinas: the hinterland provinces (GDP of $ 395 billion) like Henan and Hubei, the margins (GDP of $ 114 billion) like Tibet and inner Mongolia, and the rust belt of sunset industries in the northeast (GDP of $ 118 billion).

The government's CITEM website (www.citem.gov.ph) provides the following useful tips for Filipino exporters.

Diverse preferences

The market is spread over the 3rd largest territory in the world. A trip from one city to another would take at least an hour and a half. This creates special challenges for transportation, particularly for food or perishable goods.

The market is quite diverse. What goes for Beijing does not quite hold for the other 4 main cities of Guangzhou, Shanghai, Tianjing and Chongqin. For example, residents of Shanghai tend to spend more on appliances and computers. Those from Guangzhou devote more money to travel, dining, and communications.

Standards are rising. The boom is most evident in the coastal regions, and consumers are more conscious of quality. Local designs no longer suffice.

Exposed to global media, the better off Sino consumers want to keep up with international products, brands and culture.

Spending priorities

Chinese prefer fresh vegetables and fruits, which are common on the dinner table. Further, they would rather buy fresh than frozen or processed fish and meat. Restaurants take their fish directly from their aquariums.

Take note of spending priorities. Young adults value, above all, buying a house. It seems that parents do not approve of their children's marriage unless the couple has already bought their home. After housing, the next spending priorities are getting a car and saving up for the education of the kids.

Little emperors and niches

Parents pamper the "Little Emperors." China has enforced a draconian one-child policy, so the kid is the sole focus of the family's attention.

The tykes and youth thus heavily influence the spending patterns of Daddy and Mommy. The little emperors dictate spending on toys, clothing and computers.

Look for niches. The Chinese manufacture quite a range of goods. Why then would a Beijing resident buy a Philippine-made item rather than one locally available? The product should be of superior quality, for Filipinos can't compete on price. One avenue is to export high-end premium products.

Another is to offer custom-made job order items.

"Niche marketing may apply to furniture, industrial, costume jewelry, and other products that require a high degree of artistic quality," says Citem.

In particular, Filipinos can cater to the hotel market in China, as there are some 4,000 hotels there with star rank.

Connections with local firms

Build a Filipino identity. Promotion is needed, to pave the way for more Philippine products in the future. As it is, Filipino brands are not well known in the Asian giant, save for San Miguel, Century Tuna, and Oishi. In contrast, Thailand has done a creditable job in promoting her products to China, like coconut, durian, and rice.

Forge links with foreign companies already in China. Consumers favor European and American brands for education and hi-tech services. A more basic reason is that most Filipino companies are small, so they need big partners to cater to the immense China market.

Get a local consolidator. These brokers have built up wide commerce networks, and they know the Chinese market well. It is also a cultural imperative. "In China, guanxi (relationships) plays a vital role in commerce," says Citem. "Without it, it is close to impossible to do business, or to penetrate the market."

Join trade shows. They allow Filipino exporters to open ties with Chinese firms, and to acquaint them with trends in packaging, pric-

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2 years	(gift cert.)	N/A	N/A	5.50% + P1,650.00	5.50% + P3,600.00	6.00% + P5,800.00
3 years	(gift cert.)	N/A	N/A	6.00% + P3,600.00	6.25% + P5,800.00	6.50% + P10,200.00
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Solutions provider helps train future engineers

By Abigail L. Ho

FILIPINOS have always been touted for having a wide range of talents and skills that most of the world's richest and most powerful countries seek out whenever they look for fresh blood to infuse into their workforce.

All over the world, Filipinos almost always never fail to wow both colleagues and employers with their sharpness, ease in working with others and proficiency in the English language.

Although still armed with these traits, stiff competition from some of their Asian neighbors in terms of competence in certain fields somehow leave Filipino graduates and professionals yearning for something that could help them maintain their edge.

For engineers, the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers (IIEE) Foundation Inc. and US-based power solutions provider Rockwell Automation banded together to establish the Certified Motor Management Program that aimed to help both aspiring and practicing engineers upgrade their knowledge.

Also, Rockwell Automation in November last year donated around $400,000 worth of electrical, instrumentation demo and laboratory equipment to the IIEE Center for Training, Education and Research, a training center that served as a testing and training institute for electrical engineering professionals and students.

This made the Philippines the first beneficiary in Southeast Asia of the company's Global Equipment Donation Program that aimed to expose students and engineers all over the world to high-tech products and solutions. It also aimed to form advanced technology partnerships with the beneficiaries.

Since the program started in 1996, Rockwell has already donated more than 125 equipment to 17 countries all over the world.

"Rockwell Automation is proud to play a significant role in advancing the field of electrical engineering in the Philippines. We welcome the opportunity to support education and provide resources for students to apply their classroom knowledge to cutting-edge industry equipment," Rockwell Asia Pacific director of standard control CoE and channels B.H. Co said.

"Our donation of technological equipment and close partnership with the IIEE Foundation to develop a relevant training program for practitioners in the industry is a strong affirmation of our commitment to excellence in electrical engineering in this country," he added.

SOLUTIONS/ C2

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Of tax exemptions and ITR filing

TAX-TIPS

AS THE tax season approaches, Tax Files will be answering taxpayers' common questions and concerns about their income tax returns.

Q: I'm a married woman with two minor children. I work in an advertising firm in Makati. My husband also works in Makati but earns slightly lower than I do. Are we entitled to any exemptions?

A: Yes, the Tax Code allows certain basic personal exemptions. You and your husband get a personal exemption of P32,000 each. In case only one of you is earning gross income, only said spouse may claim the personal exemption.

For single individuals or those married but are judicially decreed as legally separated with no qualified dependents, the personal exemption is P20,000; for heads of family, P25,000.

Dependents. The Tax Code also allows an additional exemption of P8,000 for each dependent not exceeding four. A "dependent" can be a legitimate, illegitimate or legally adopted child dependent upon and living with the taxpayer who is not more than 21 years of age, unmarried and not gainfully employed or if such dependent, regardless of age, is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical defect.

For married couples, only one of the spouses can claim the additional exemption for dependents. As a rule, your husband is the one entitled to claim the additional exemption unless he explicitly waives his right in your favor in the application for registration or in the withholding exemption certificate. Your husband may waive the additional exemption for dependents in your favor at any time during the year.

Q: Both our employers withhold due taxes from our salary monthly therefore, our tax due at the end of the year is always zero. Do we still have to file an ITR?

A: Under Revenue Regulations No. 03-2002, individual taxpayers like you and your husband who receive purely compensation income from only one employer in the Philippines for the calendar year and for which the income tax has been withheld correctly by the said employer, are no longer required to file BIR Form No. 1700 (Annual Income Tax Return).

In lieu of BIR Form No. 1700, the Annual Information Return of Income Taxes Withheld on Compensation and Final Withholding Taxes (BIR Form No. 1604-CF) filed by the employer, duly stamped "received" by the BIR, shall be tantamount to the substituted filing of income tax returns by the individual employees.

Under the regulations, an employee who is qualified for substituted filing of income tax return and the employer, need only to issue a joint certification to the effect that the employer's filing of BIR Form No. 1604-CF shall be considered as substituted filing of the employee's income tax return.

There are some exceptions to this rule. The following are still required to file BIR Form No. 1700 on or before April 15:

1. Individuals deriving compensation from two or more employers concurrently or successively at anytime during the taxable year.

2. Employees deriving compensation income, regardless of the amount, whether from a single or several employers during the calendar year, the income tax of which has not been withheld correctly (i.e. tax due is not equal to the tax withheld) resulting to collectible or refundable return.

3. Employees whose monthly gross compensation income does not exceed P5,000 or the statutory minimum wage, whichever is higher, and opted for non-withholding of tax on said income.

4. Individuals deriving other non-business, non-profession-related income in addition to compensation income not otherwise subject to a final tax.

5. Individuals receiving purely compensation income from a single employer, although the income tax of which has been correctly withheld, but whose spouse falls under exceptions (1), (2) (3) and (4) above.

6. Non-resident aliens engaged in trade or business in the Philippines deriving purely compensation income, or compensation income and other non-business, non-profession-related income.

For married individuals who are still required to file returns because they fall under the exceptions to rule on substituted filing of returns, either spouse should file only one return for the taxable year to cover their income. The husband and wife should both sign the return unless it is physically impossible to do so, in which case, the signature of one of the spouses would suffice.

If any income cannot be definitely attributed to or identified as income exclusively earned or realized by either of the spouses, the income should be divided equally between the spouses for the purpose of determining their respective taxable income. Joint filing of returns are generally required from such spouses. *(For feedback and queries, please e-mail Tax Tips at sgv_information@sgv.com.ph.)*

Solutions provider ...

From page C1

The IIEE-Rockwell Certified Motor Management Program is composed initially of eight training modules that will be periodically updated to go with technology advances.

These eight modules include the basics of motors, motor overload protection, motor starting methods, advanced motor protection and monitoring, integrating starting control and monitoring, circuit breaker and basic and short circuit protection, frequency inverter, and communication and motor management.

Co said this program would eventually give rise to a pool of more knowledgeable engineers who could then use their knowledge to come up with more efficient power management plans as well as energy conservation methods.

Rockwell has been in the Philippines since 1992, although the company does not have a country office here. What is housed in its Ayala-Life FGU Center office in Makati is only a marketing, sales and after-sales support and service engineering arm.

The power solutions firm's Southeast Asian regional office is in Singapore while its Asia-Pacific headquarters is in Hong Kong.

Co said the company's clients in the Philippines were mainly multinational firms that had big operations here, including Nestle Phil. Inc., Procter & Gamble Phil. Inc. and Kimberly Clark Phil. Inc.

Rockwell also has the 1,200-megawatt Ilijan power plant in Batangas as one of its customers.

As the company caters mostly to manufacturing companies and power firms, it would make sense that the global business downturn would badly affect Rockwell's overall business.

But Co was quick to say that he was still optimistic about both the global and the Philippine business environments.

"The manufacturing sector is still gradually growing. Although there's a downtrend, it's not really very significant. Also, with the US economy down, many companies there close down and transfer their operations to countries with cheaper costs of doing business. That's why we try to select the best partners in countries where most US companies set up shop," he says.

For the power sector, Co also remained upbeat as he says Rockwell equipment were a good buy for power plants as most of these helped reduce energy consumption.

"The Philippines is pretty much linked to the US and Rockwell has a high market share there. And the Asia-Pacific market is still a fairly new market so there is a lot of room for growth. We're still optimistic," he says.

Last year, Rockwell Automation posted sales of around $4 billion worldwide. The company has 22,000 employees in all of its offices all over the world.

Get to know China's ...

From page C1

ing and the flow of goods. As such, they should visit the CITEM website to check out the coming major trade show in Shanghai. It is called "Ties that Bind—a Philippine Solo Exhibition." It will present Filipino products and services at the Shanghai Exhibition Center from March 27 to 30, 2003. *Comments to darroyo@philonline.com*

Advertising network's 'university' graduates over 1,000 in three years

By Roger Pe
Contributor

PEOPLE. Product. Profit. In this highly competitive and volatile world of advertising, how do you maximize their full potential and develop them as valuable players for the big leagues?

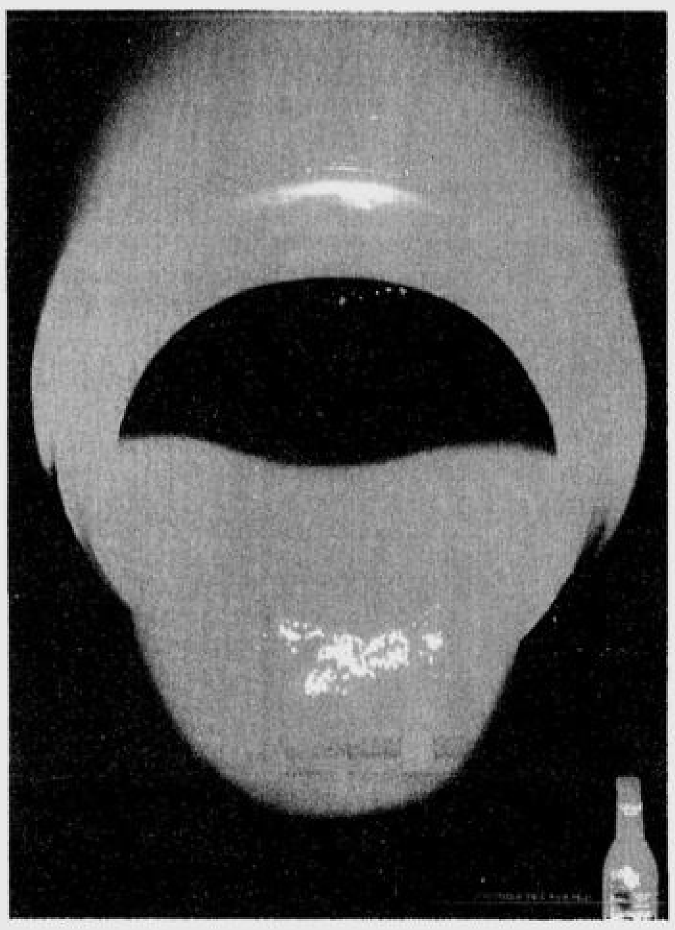
How do you make their enthusiasm more infectious to create better ideas and get better results? How can everyone in the agency make an impact? How do you improve your brand to make clients prefer you over your competitors? How do you manage your margins without compromising relationships?

DDB (Doyle, Dane and Bernbach), the third largest advertising network in the world, has opened an avenue to provide ways for its people around the world to multiply their intellectual capital and turn theories into business solutions that could change every facet of their work and their clients' as well.

DDB University

Since its birth in May 2000, nearly 1,000 people from 150 DDB offices in 60 countries have attended the university's learning programs.

DDBU offers all DDB agencies the ability to understand and use DDB's proprietary planning and branding tools, allowing its personnel to communicate with each other and to its clients in one language. The aim is to transform the network into one global force: from ad makers to brand builders and from specialists to integrators.



The Creative Springboard and Brand Foundations. These distance learning programs are meant to be used by planners, account managers and creatives. Each CD-rom contains interactive materials including examples of print and film work, as well as rare archival footage of Bill Bernbach.

Brand Capital Workshop. In addition to learning about actual Brand Capital study, the workshop aims to develop a business-building presentation, as well as counting the attendees' creativity, leadership and insight to develop the potential of this unique agency resource.

The Power Of Language. The course is designed for anyone who is interested in new ways of using words—creatives, account managers, planners, chief executives or any other function. No prior experience in writing is required.

Global Brand Marketing. Working on international business is, quite simply, different and often, harder than working on domestic accounts. To do it well, the network enhances and adapts its account management skills. Run by experts with the help of experienced Worldwide Account Directors, the course covers principles of global brand marketing, different client models and DDB's overall approach.

How Great Creative People Become Great Creative Directors. Cannes, Clio, One Show Multi-awardee Bob Scarpelli, US chief creative officer and chair of DDB Chicago, leads this seminar in creative leadership and management. Acknowledging that there is a different skill set required to manage the creative process than to create, this course aims to help creative people understand what it takes to make a successful transition from creator to creative director in the DDB network.

From Prospecting To Pitch. Designed for top management and facilitated by Cleve Langton, it covers how to "Sell Brand Capital," as well as the "rules of engagement" for pitches. Findings are based on postmortems from over 110 pitches in the US and around the world, from interviews with over 40 agency research consultants and from large-scale study of over 50 senior marketing/advertising people from major multinationals.

Measuring Effectiveness. What really works and what doesn't in the marketplace? "Is creativity some obscure, esoteric art form? Not on your life. It is the most powerful weapon a businessman can use. This course leads you to understand why some of the most commonly used measures of "advertising effectiveness" don't always show what they claim to do.

In addition to DDBU's central staff, volunteer DDBU Leaders and faculty members have made invaluable contribution to the success of DDBU. Far sighted managers have also wisely realized that sending one person on a DDBU course can have a cascading effect through the organization.

Where advertising trends and new markets are continuously evolving, DDB keeps abreast with the times—building its people, reengineering its products and boosting its clients profits for better results. *(The author is the creative director of DDB Philippines.)*

Online pit stops for automobile freaks

By Raul C. Dancel

CALL them "support mechanisms" for auto freaks. Online auto clubs are mushrooming all over the country like insane lemmings and—with the help of the Internet—are signing up more and more members, from "newbies" who just want to know when is it a good time to shift to fifth gear to racing enthusiasts who are eager to transform their motor vehicles into kick-ass Libis dragsters.

These clubs are also exercising considerable clout in the local auto industry, their electronic billboards more influential than the lengthy reviews of experts writing for those glossy motoring magazines.

Sometimes, information swapped through these boards can doom a newly released model or an entire network of dealers. On the other hand, an obscure but reliable auto repair shop or retail outlet can get free publicity—and a host of new customers—from these sites.

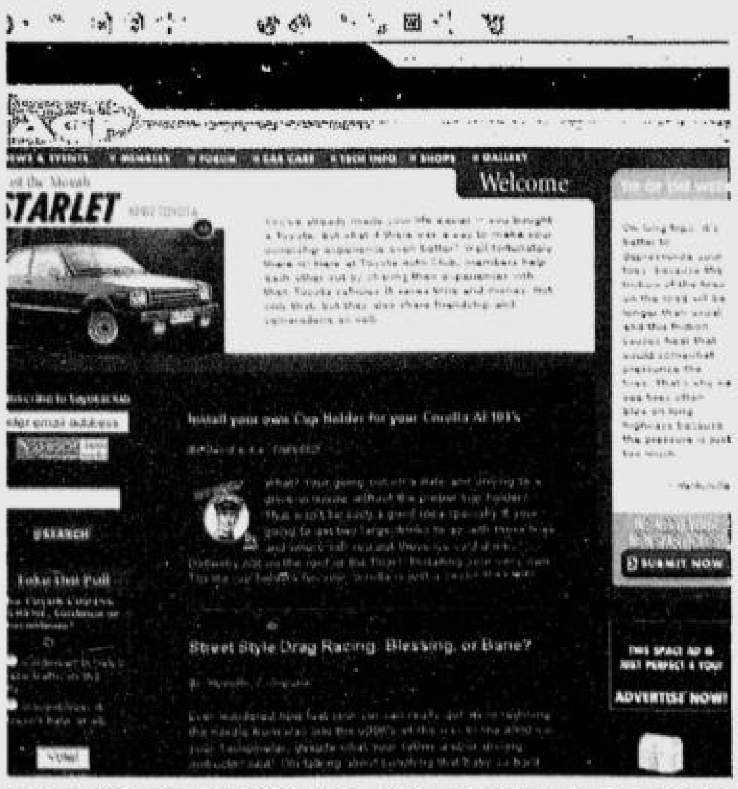
Pit areas

Online auto clubs act as pit areas for people who look at their cars, pickup trucks, vans or utility vehicles as more than just transportation units. They have people who like to tweak their vehicles to see how things work and how they can change and add a few things so they'd stand out in traffic or just to get a different riding experience.

You can also find bargain-hunters, hustlers, rustlers and just plain jokers in these sites.

These sites offer a great resource for car buyers, especially those on a budget and are buying their first cars. They certainly beat those printed ads in some buy-and-sell catalogues in terms of the information they provide.

A seller in one of these sites will list more than just the model year or brand or that irritating fact that the vehicle was "lady-driven."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ADVERTISE NOW!

An ad in one site for Toyota enthusiasts, for instance, is selling a 1993 Toyota Corolla and describes everything found inside the car—a 20-valve Silvertop engine, rear disc brakes, Levin gauges, steering wheel and shift knob, and a JDM front bumper—complete with pictures of the car and the refinements. The owner even goes the extra mile by disclosing that he's having the car refitted and repainted so it'd be in car-show form and keeping an update of how his project is coming along.

These sites also offer a wealth of information for those shopping for high-performance auto parts. Users normally post addresses and numbers for those working on a "project"—an engine upgrade, an audio setup or an exotic paintjob—and even offer advice on how to go about it the cheap and easy way.

Focus groups

But they're trying to be more than just noisy bunches of boys and girls obsessed with cars.

Local auto assemblers are paying attention to them because of the way they influence public opinion and local politics.

"They act as a gauge because they're our best customers. They have loyalty to the brand," Ariel de Jesus, a spokesperson for Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., says.

For Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s customer relations head, Rachel Diaz, auto clubs serve as "informal focus groups."

"We get feedback from them, especially on the design and particularly on what makes a sporty car," Diaz says.

Arthur Avenir, president of Toyota Auto Club Philippines, says auto clubs are aware of their growing importance to the local auto industry and are making the most out of it for their own members' benefits.

"Somehow, I believe, we have an influence," Avenir says. "For example, auto shops are already aware of the Toyota club, and they are the ones now approaching us, offering towing services, etc."

Most auto clubs are particularly mindful of the way auto companies are addressing after-sales concerns and aren't mincing words to express their disgust at being shortchanged.

At least three Toyota dealerships have been trashed in various sites on the Internet for selling "lemons" and for just plain bad service.

One participant in an online forum riled over the fact that the brand-new Corolla Altis his father bought had a bum air-conditioning unit, substandard tint and a lot of swirl marks.

Another complained that he bought his car to a dealership to have the air-conditioning system cleaned only to find out two months later that it was never really cleaned.

Another dealership was charging P9,000 to replace a master brake assembly when the only thing wrong with the car was a leaking hose that only cost P400 to repair.

Problems like these, Avenir says, are at least being aired before a larger audience and are helping automakers and their dealers "improve their line-up."

"We can help them."

Who says there's no money in wooden art?

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PAETE, Laguna—Dentist Fermin C. Madridejos Jr. relegated his profession to the sideline and focused his attention on his first love: wood carving masterpieces, which he now keeps at his Lilok Paete Art Gallery here both for display as works of art and for sale.

During the Baraka Ukit-Taka Festival, which had the theme "Ukit-Kamay sa Hubog ng Tagumpay," Madridejos was among the popular artists asked to demonstrate various kinds of wood sculpture and carving.

Like the other elder artists of Paete, he says he would see to it that children and young participants in the demonstration realize the value of this age-old trade passed on to them by their forefathers.

"We will inculcate in our new generation that we owe this unique work of art trade from our parents who were faithful in pursuing them as their precious inheritance from their elders," he says.

Although he favors that today's youth should finish courses they see fit, he is similarly reminding them never to shy away from learning and doing actual work in the art of sculpture because "there is big money in it while one enjoys the job and skills of artworks."

Madridejos says his art gallery is a family business. His wife, a secretarial graduate, takes charge of the office management and other functions related to their manufacturing and exporting trade.

He says that to-date, he has already launched a score of one-man exhibits of his best masterpieces—some of which were made at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Manila, Nayong Filipino, Galleria de las Islas, Megamall, National Museum and several other venues.

The dentist-artist says he preferred devoting most of his time carving artwork rather than practicing his dental profession because of his natural love for the trade.

"I am my own boss. While I enjoy carving wooden images, which I love doing as an art at home, I also earn a big sum of money because people (tourists) would buy them," Madridejos, who began carving at 7 years old, tells the INQUIRER.

Both a manufacturer and exporter of quality sculpture masterpieces, the dentist, who has six children, expressed pleasure that at least one of them has shown talent and interest in sculpture trade.

Benjamin Dailo, 43, says that when he got married he focused on the hand woodcraft and eventually established himself into one of the big names in town and in the national scene.

Dailo says the government's total log ban, which prohibits cutting of trees, was no problem to him. "It even helped me strive to become more creative as an artist. I produce masterpieces out of junk wood or pieces of timber, which ordinary people would consider for firewood."

During the festival, Dailo showed the INQUIRER some of his masterpieces, which he made out of abandoned pieces of wood or timber.

Among these masterpieces, which were on public display and worth thousands of money, was the sala set he made out of waste pieces of a narra trunk.

The artist says he has perfected the use of waste wood.

He also showed a beautifully sculptured young maiden out of pieces of wood, which he skillfully joined with one another to form a smooth, perfect woman figure.

Dailo's advice to foreign and local tourists and even ordinary folk: do not to throw away waste wooden materials so easily.

Jing Lontok, 47, an artist who owns one of the handicraft stores selling assorted artwork ranging from big and small religious figurines or mundane images, says the handicraft business used to be a very profitable trade.

In 1970s until 1997, the industry was a multimillion endeavor where the entire municipality of Paete became literally a big exporter of handicraft products.

Lontok says he started his business with wife Eufronia Balahadia, 47, in 1977 with only P1,000 as capital.

Today, the husband admits that their business is worth a lot, with their finished products already beyond the storage capacity of their store building.

"We do not cease producing various handicraft items to be ready for big sales during the Lenten and Christmas seasons when buyers here and abroad come in droves for big orders," he says.

Lontok says his eldest son Roel, 25, an HRM graduate at the Arellano University and married with one child, specializes in ice carving and is now employed in an American tourist ship, the Star Clipper, which travels to Mexico and European countries. He is earning several thousands of dollars monthly, Lontok claims.

Fermin R. Cadapan, 70, receives a pension of $150 monthly since attending the Smithsonian Institution Folk Life Festival held in Washington, D.C. on June 24-July 5, 1998 for besting other international wood carving artists in an on-the-spot contest of accomplishing the image of St. Isidore the farmer.

He says he was the only one among the contestants who was able to accomplish the image in its finished form.

The contestants came from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico and several other nations.

Cadapan, a bachelor, says he started carving since childhood and he was doing art masterpieces when he was 30.

His art mentor was the famous artist Justino Cagayat, who was tireless in training him to become what he is today.

Paete town is known for its best carpenters and wood carvers. Among these famous carvers and painters include Manny Baldemor, Fred Baldemor and Esmeraldo Dans.

These people are among those who gave Paete a big name both in the Philippines and the world due to their various national and international exhibits.

At present, Paete is known all over the world for its overseas carvers who create artwork using ice, chocolate, butter, vegetables and fruits.

All these unique craftsmanship skills were admittedly handed down to this younger generation of artists by those pillar-artists in the past who have already died like late Mariano Madriñan (who garnered an international award in his lifetime), Justino Cagayat and Jose Caancan, to name a few.

Paete is also known for its magnificence in producing various artwork through papier mache (taka). Added to this was the recently invented use of "resin" and "paper pulp" which are now among the livelihood means of Paete residents.

EUFRONIA, wife of artist Jing Lontok, is busy working on one of their assorted products displayed in their store. ROMY PONTE/PDI S. LUZON BUREAU

RODRIGO E. Rivera Sr. shakes hands with Foreign Affairs Minister Rabbie Namaliu of PNG following his appointment as honorary consul general of PNG. Witnessing are PNG Foreign Affairs Secretary Evoa Lalatute (far right) and Philippine Ambassador to PNG Bienvenido Tejano and Pete Celso, managing director of RD Tuna Canners Ltd. based in Madang.

Filipino businessman helps Papua New Guinea's economy

FOREIGN Affairs and Immigration Minister Rabbie Namaliu of Papua New Guinea appointed Rodrogo E. River Sr. as PNG's honorary consul general to the Philippines last Jan. 30.

Rivera is the president and CEO of RD Tuna Canners Ltd. and RD Fishing PNG Ltd. in Madang, Papua New Guinea.

He was given the honor of honorary consul general because of RD Tuna Canners Ltd. and RD Fishing PNG's contribution to the Independent state of PNG in providing employment, generating foreign exchange from exports of their products and spinning off for the people of PNG especially in the Madang community. Rivera's companies also helped stabilize PNG's economy and their currency which is kina.

Rivera said he was honored to be appointed by the PNG government and said he would do his best in attracting prospective investors and promoting tourism in PNG.

Rivera is the first Filipino to be appointed as Papua New Guinea honorary consul general to the Philippines.

Manobo tribe . . .

From page C4

water will flow through bamboo "pipes" towards the patola hills.

Divina is in charge, among others, of the marketing and in the linkages with government agencies that could provide assistance to their fledgling project.

She reveals that the Departments and Trade and Science and Technology are currently providing them technical assistance on their income generating projects.

The group also ventured into butterfly farming; they use preserved butterflies for their loofah butterfly aquarium. And they had just harvested their queen pineapple plantation, which they experimented successfully in their farm. But they are at present concentrating on their loofah products.

Expansion plans

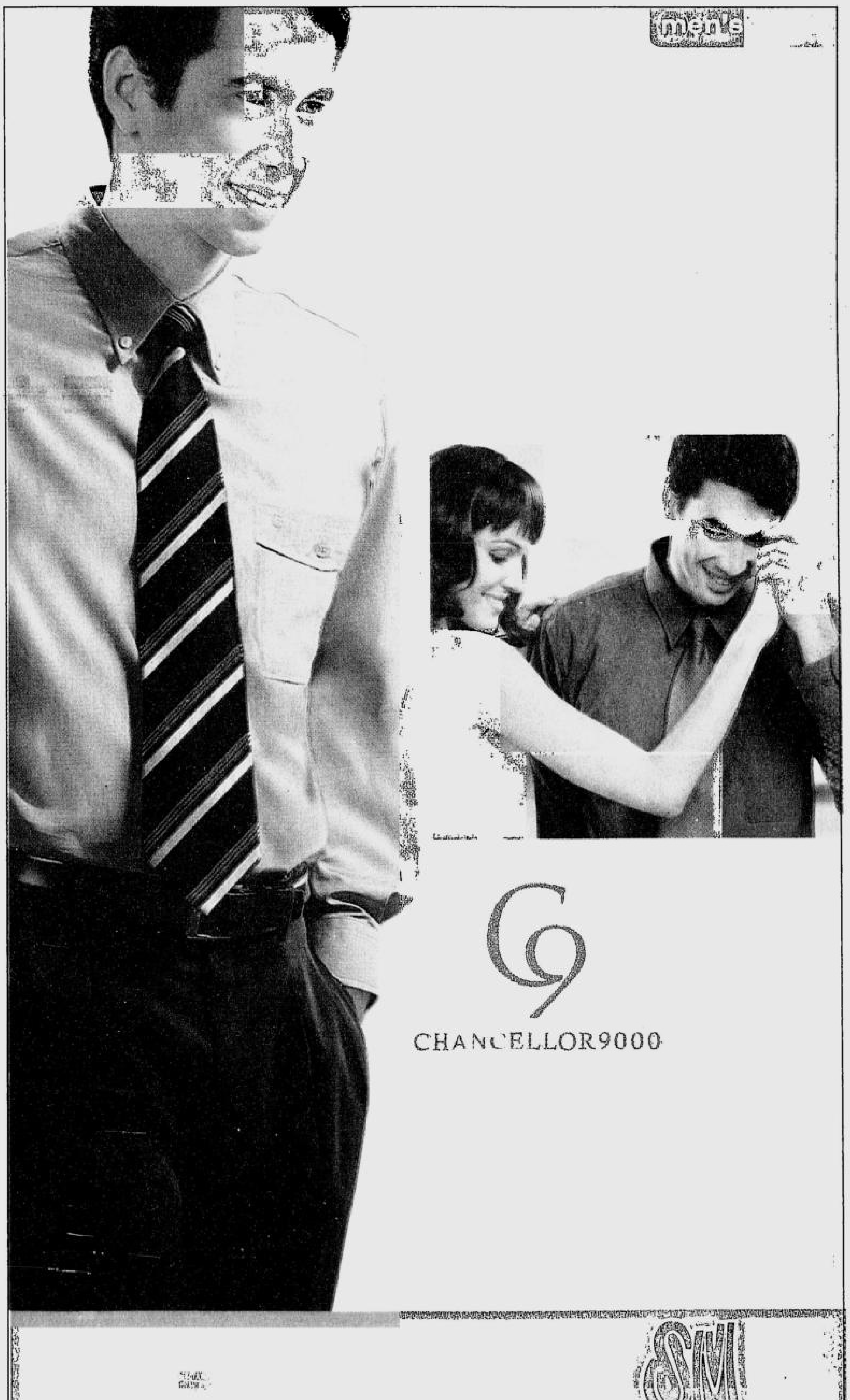
Divina says they hope to expand their patola plantation from one-fourth ha to eight ha, mainly because they know they are capable of farming a bigger area and that there is a big business potential for loofah products. However, they still need capitalization, equipment, installation of electricity in their community and the construction of a feeder road to their place.

"When we were about to join the Bahandi last year, we had to rent a sewing machine which were used in making some of our loofah products," she says, adding that though they have the manpower they really need some equipment but cannot afford to buy them.

But Divina is not losing hope, saying some government agencies like the DTI and DOST or the city government can help them solve these problems. In fact, Datu Rico, Divina and their people are already looking forward to joining this year's Bahandi Festival in September.

Although the Manobo tribe members are just fledgling entrepreneurs, they have shown to others that through their determination, patience and hard work they can start a business with a great potential of growing big. And they won't stop until they will succeed.

Divina attributed this to God. Showing a red bible written in Minanubo, their dialect, she says their encouragement and hope all came from the words of God. After having embraced the Christian faith, the Manobos in Tacloban are now trying their best to mix their indigenous farming system with modern technology, to come out with better products like the loofah.



Manobo tribe goes loco over loofah

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The members of the Manobo tribe are known to be good farmers and hunters. But the tribe that has settled in Leyte went a step further—they are now fast becoming entrepreneurs.

They are selling not only the usual handicrafts made out of forest products, but also hand-made exotic bath scrubs or loofah.

Although not a native of the region, the Manobos joined a trade fair for entrepreneurs from Eastern Visayas held last year. And Bae Divina B. Padecio, tribal chief of the local Manobos, was very proud that their fledgling products made it to the big city.

While it is true that the Manobo tribe is from Agusan in Mindanao, Divina's group has been in Eastern Visayas for almost two decades now.

They arrived in the region in 1984 to work at the Baswood Industries, a logging firm then operating in Basey, Samar. They worked there until 1989 when a logging moratorium was declared.

The Rawis and Guirang in their association's name are both barangays of Basey, the places where they stayed while still in Samar.

With the closure of the logging firm, the Monobos moved to Leyte. At present, the tribe has its own community at Barangay Bagacay, about 8 km from the city proper.

The tribe acquired the land through a certificate of land ownership from the Department of Agrarian Reform. The place has a 3-hectare area for home lots and another 6.7 ha for farm lots.

The tribe is engaged in an industrial forest management project at a 242-ha watershed area near their community, where they planted several species of trees like gmelina, mangiums, mahogany and many others. This reforestation endeavor has been very successful but the Manobos here are more excited about their entry into the market economy, especially with the success of their loofah products that they are eager to expand their patola plantation.

Natural exfoliator

Loofah is the spongy material that is found inside a patola, a vegetable from the gourd family. Loofah body scrubs are very popular because it is a natural exfoliator. It also improves blood circulation and helps relieve dry skin. When used as insole of sandals, it massages the feet.

In the case of Divina's tribe, the members produce bath scrubs as well as loofah lampshades, loofah curtains and gift products, loofah placemats, glassware cleaners, lanterns and even loofah butterfly aquariums.

These were among the products that Divina, who was then garbed in her native Manobo attire, was selling at SM Megamall during last year's Bahandi Festival, the trade fair featuring Eastern Visayas products and held in September.

Big potential

According to Divina, the income they earned during that trade fair last year was not much but was enough to cover the school expenses of their children. But she says the most important thing they learned from that trade fair was that there is a big business potential for their loofah products.

She says there was a volume order of 100,000 of cut loofah and one Elf truck full of loofah lampshades as a result of their participation in the Bahandi Festival.

Divina recalls that they were introduced to the world of loofah when she attended a seminar that was held as one of the activities during the Leyte Landings anniversary celebration in 1995.

"It was conducted by Geolodes Philippines through the Agribusiness System Assistance Program," she says, referring to the seminar on loofah production that she attended.

VEN LABRO

Bae Divina Padecio shows some of their loofah products.

Because she had shown interest in loofah production and her group was seen as a "potential grower," a similar seminar was held in their community, attended by members of the Manobo tribe. After that, they immediately planted patola in their farm.

Superior quality

Samples from their initial production, Divina says, showed that the quality of their patola fiber was superior, meaning the sponge fiber was whitish and strong—thus soft to the skin and durable.

Divina explains that aside from their soil being very much suitable to planting patola, they also take extra efforts in caring the plant to the extent that they even talk to them.

She emphasizes that they started the project on their own initiative, but later on they were able to avail themselves of a P75,000 grant from the city government's Tacloban Urban Development Management (Tudem) program.

They used the money to build the wire trellis, or the lattice that forms support to the patola vine, that is supported by G.I. pipes with the base cemented. This new structure is expected to last for at least 10 years. Before this, they have been using wooden sticks as trellis and bamboo poles for support, which did not last long.

Although Divina is the tribal chieftain, it is her husband, Uldarico Padecio, who is the datu of the tribe.

Datu Rico and Divina are very much involved in their loofah business, and they have their respective duties and responsibilities with regard the loofah project.

For instance, it is Datu Rico who oversees the operation at their pilot patola plantation. Having an area of one-fourth ha and located a few meters from their houses, the plantation has a total of 60 hills with an estimated production of 50,400 pieces of loofah per year.

According to Datu Rico, ten Manobo families are involved in the project with each family given one module, composed of 60 hills, to plant and take care of. Aside from having their own modules to care for, each family is also given a specific responsibility in the farm. With one family tasked in the preparation of the land or in quality control, another takes care of the fertilization, while another does installation of the trellis or the watering of plants.

The Padecio couple is proud of their patola plantation's watering system, in which each hill can be watered by just opening a faucet at a water tub that serves as a water-impounding implement. From there

MANOBO/ C3

Location, location, location.

Strategically situated at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue (Buendia), The Columns, Ayala Avenue, Community Innovations, Inc.'s newest development, redefines high rise living. It provides the convenience and prestige of city life, and is within walking distance to the business, commercial and entertainment hubs of Makati's central business district.

The ideal first home of the young urban achievers who want to *live a few steps from everything*.

Garden in the city. At the Columns, Ayala Avenue, nature communes with urban living. Its design creates an open-space environment and relaxing surroundings. The interplay of greens and Zen gardens that adorn the Grand Lobbies of each tower give a soothing experience to residents and guests alike.

Three towers of power. Three towers on a continuous podium level define The Columns, Ayala Avenue. Each tower will have 30 storeys, 23 of which will be residential. The five-level upper ground parking is shielded from the outside by an artwork that gives the building prominence along Ayala and Buendia Avenues.

The layout maximizes the advantages of its prominent site, which allows more units to be facing the morning sun while avoiding the afternoon heat. Natural lighting and good ventilation are also taken into consideration in each of the studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom residential units - a rare feature among residential condominiums.

To create a more open feel for space, select units even have bay windows; others have balconies overlooking the city. The top three levels will house very private units, which have breath-taking scenery.

The Recreational Club, which stretches across the 7th floor podium of all three towers, provides residents a source of recreation and an ideal venue for socializing with other residents. It has a 25-meter adults' lap pool, kids' pool, spacious function rooms with spill-over area, a gym, game room with mini-theater, daycare center with indoor and outdoor play area, communal wine cellar, jogging path and transient rooms for the residents' guests - almost like a hotel!

To make it even more fascinating, the ground floor will have landscaped plazas, a row of cafes and al fresco dining spots, indeed the perfect setting for unwinding after a day's busy schedule.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

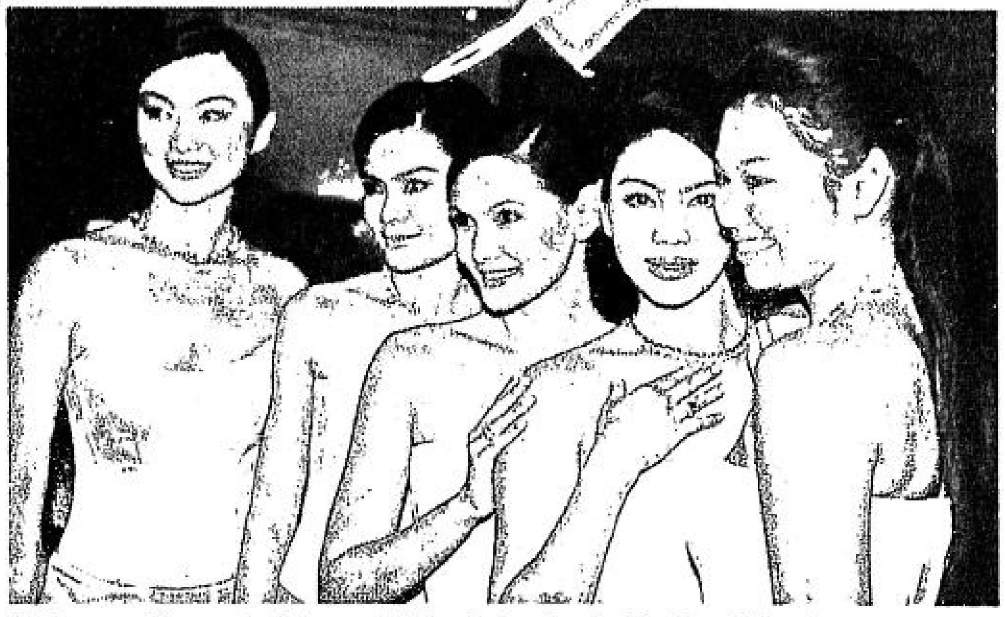
TWEETIE de Leon-Gonzalez wears a Parentesi yellow gold and diamond choker and Millenia yellow gold diamond-studded ring

The majesty of jewelry

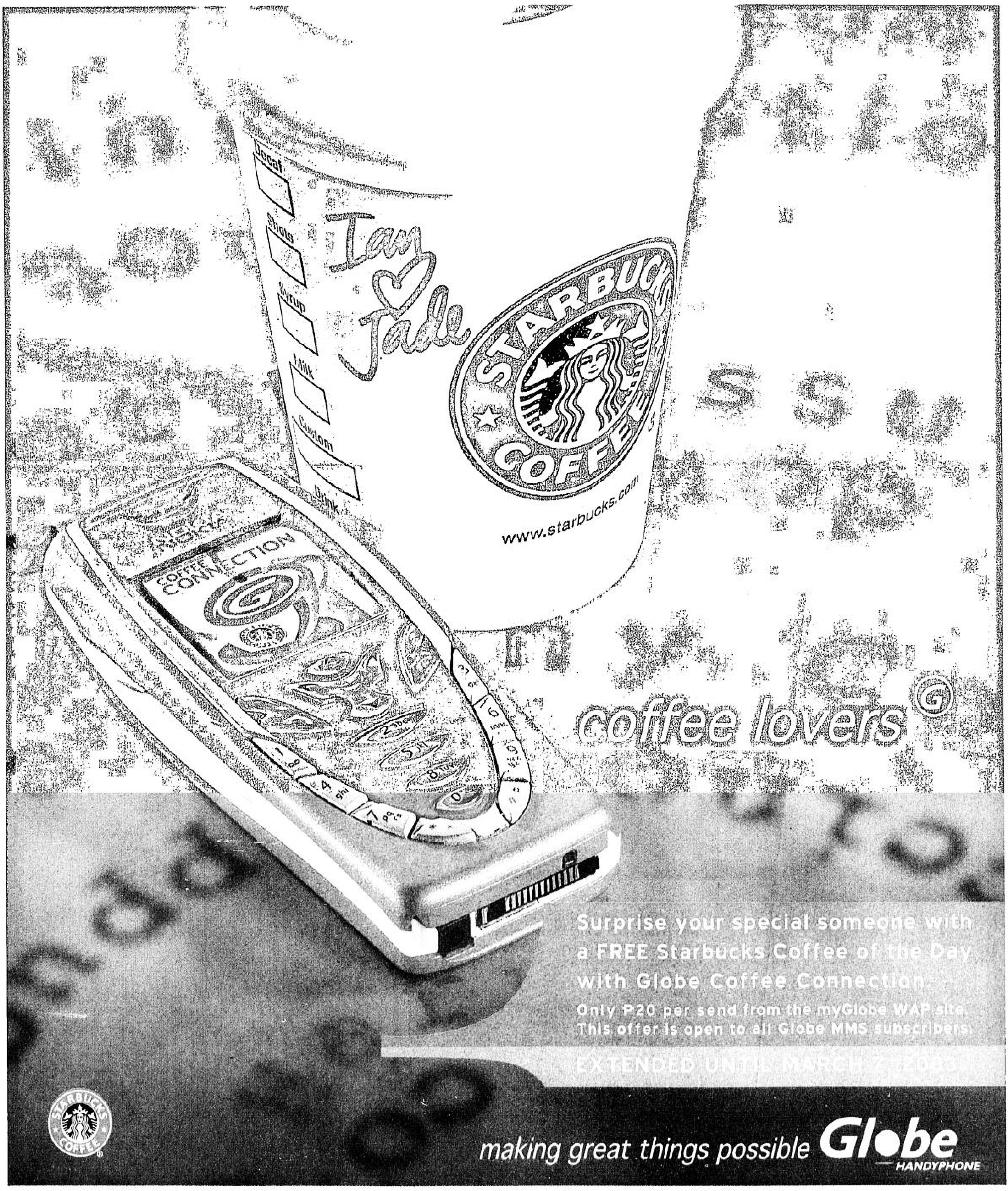
Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

AFTER ALL these years, even the bejeweled Imelda Marcos still can't resist the sparkle of real diamonds. The former first lady was among Bvlgari's well-heeled guests as the Italian

THE MAJESTY/ D6



ALL in a row, the country's top models dazzle in pricey baubles from Bvlgari.



Surprise your special someone with a FREE Starbucks Coffee of the Day with Globe Coffee Connection.

Only P20 per send from the myGlobe WAP site. This offer is open to all Globe MMS subscribers.

EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 7, 2003

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

1. Globe subscribers with an MMS phone must first activate their MMS service by calling Globe's 24-hour Customer Service Hotline at 730-1000 or 211 toll-free on their Globe Handyphone.
2. Participants can avail of a free short Coffee of the Day from Starbucks by sending the "Coffee Connection" MMS message via the "Coffee Connection" page on the myGlobe WAP site. Cost per MMS Message sent is ₱20.
3. The MMS subscriber has the option to send the "Coffee Connection" MMS message to his own number or send it to another Globe MMS subscriber with an MMS capable phone. The subscriber will be asked to identify the phone model of the recipient to ensure that they send only to MMS subscribers.
4. To send a "Coffee Connection" MMS message:
   a. Go to phone "Menu".
   b. Choose "Services".
   c. Select the myGlobe GPRS link from the available bookmarks.
   d. Choose "Yes" when the "Connection to server needed" message appears.
   e. Click on "Coffee Connection".
5. Participants will be given instructions on how to send the "Coffee Connection" MMS message, as well as an alias. They may choose to reveal their number, or identify themselves as a "secret admirer", "good friend", or "your Valentine". The designated recipient will then receive the MMS message from 2325.
6. Each MMS subscriber is entitled to send only two short cups of Starbucks Coffee of the Day. The third time they try to send the "Coffee Connection" MMS message, they will be informed that they have already availed of the two coffee treats. They will be reminded however that they can still send their loved ones an MMS Valentine's Card.
7. Starbucks Coffee of the Day can be claimed from any Starbucks outlet by showing the "Coffee Connection" MMS message to a barista.
8. The Starbucks barista will erase the MMS message once it is validated. Only MMS messages from 2325 will be honored. The participant who showed the MMS message will then need to sign a receipt with his/her name, mobile number, phone model, and signature for verification purposes. This receipt will be kept by Starbucks.
9. Redemption shall be within sixty (60) days from the end of the promo period.

Duration: February 8 to March 7, 2003 / Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0219, Series of 2003 / Approved by DTI-NCR

BJ Manalo

Eat your heart out, Beckham

AFTER DENNIS Rodman caught everybody's attention with his hair, the biggest side court story became not just what sports shoes the players are endorsing but also what hairstyle they're sporting.

Rodman strutted on the hardcourt with hair tint even rock stars wouldn't dare wear. Now it's the turn of David Beckham, frontliner of the English football team, proponent of the new Mohawk cut.

On the local front, Enrico Villanueva and BJ Manalo, star players of rival universities Ateneo de Manila and De La Salle, are the biggest news. Steering their teams head-to-head for the championship crown of the UAAP 2002, Villanueva and Manalo became the games' instant heroes and the country's next celebrities. Now their faces can be seen on television commercials and billboards, pitching neither basketballs nor rubber shoes, but hairstyles for Bench Fix Salon.

As the new endorsers of Bench Fix Salon, Villanueva and Manalo have joined the international players who are in the spotlight not just for their sports skills but for their sense of style. Villanueva's idol Michael Jordan, for example.

In their Fix Salon television commercial, Villanueva and Manalo get into a heated one-on-one game, wearing their rival school's color on their head. Villanueva's hair is dyed green, and Manalo's, blue.

They are also sport enough to have hair attachments glued to their heads, then spray-painted with color. It's a strange act just to pitch the line that it's time to get a fix, but they're brave enough to go to such extreme should their teammates decide to.

This tongue-in-cheek approach reflects their casual attitude more than their celebrity status. For Villanueva and Manalo, sport heroes turned style icons, the biggest story is still about the games they play.

Fix Bench Salon has branches at 2/L Robinsons Galleria, 4/L Robinsons Metroeast, The ABS-CBN Loop; 2/L SM City, Bicutan; 2/L City Center, Ortigas, Greenhills; 4/L The Podium, Ortigas; G/F Jaka Plaza, Parañaque; 1/L NE-Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan; and F Salon inside First Aid sore, 2/L Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.

ENRICO Villanueva

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Hottest hair colors

of the season

IGORA Royal, the premium hair coloring line from Germany's Schwarzkopf Professional, introduces another innovative product to cater to the ever-changing hairstyling needs of fashionable men and women. The Trend Collection 2002/2003 is a collection of the hippest hues to match the various themes that are all the rage in catwalks all over the world.

Brown Spice carries the hottest colors of the season—cinnamon, clove and tamarind.

RED Violette

BROWN Spice

It offers up to 100-percent gray coverage without compromising fashion tone.

Red Violette, meanwhile, is a heady mix of red and violet and is available in exciting shades of velvet, satin, silk and chiffon. It's seductive, high-energy color with excellent retention and staying power!

Schwarzkopf Professional, the Hair Cosmetics business sector of the Henkel Group, Dusseldorf, is one of the leading suppliers worldwide in the hairdressing business. It focuses on innovative concepts and services designed "for hairdressers by hairdressers" to meet the needs of the international hairdressing community.

Call 726-8507/08 or 722-0278.

Well-known European stylist arriving

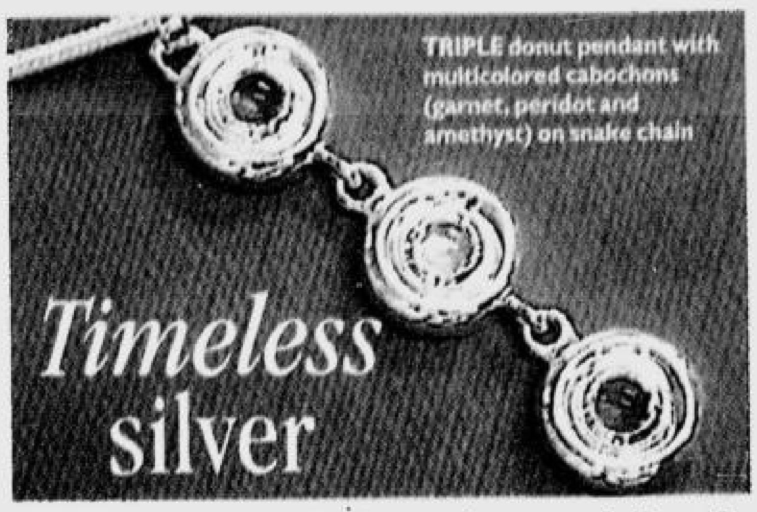
DANCER, artist and stylist Laetitia Guenaou will arrive in Manila in March as a L'Oreal ambassador.

Guenaou will lead the 2003 L'Oreal Trend Show on March 17 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Formerly with the Haute Coiffure Francaise, Guenaou is known for her distinctive style in cutting, coloring and styling. She opened her own school in Paris in 2001 where she trains hairstylists, and invents hairstyling devices. She is also a master in the use of L'Oreal product.

While in Manila, Guenaou will conduct hands-on workshops on the L'Oreal Professionel Spring Summer Color Collection, bringing European trends and practices to the ever-growing and discriminating Asian market.

Timeless silver



TRIPLE donut pendant with multicolored cabochons (garnet, peridot and amethyst) on snake chain

MICHELIS, maker of authentic silver jewelry, has new offerings, such as the leaf and rose quartz wraparound necklace; the square cutout with faceted marquise amethyst ring; the rectangular semi-hoop earrings with faceted marquise amethyst; oval box with facetted marquise amethyst on ball chain; the Filipiniana charm bracelet; small donut rings with facetted stones (almandine garnet, blue topaz and rhodolite garnet); the triple donut pendant with multicolored cabochons (garnet, peridot and amethyst) on snake chain; and the eternity tennis bracelet with garnets.

Michelis Gifts and Jewelry shops are located at the Greenbelt Mall, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Rustan's Alabang Town Center and Shangri-La Plaza, and at the lobbies of the Manila Peninsula and Mandarin Hotel. Call 812-3456 local 2996.

RING with marquise amethyst and matching earrings and ball-chain necklace

LEAF and rose quartz wraparound necklace

ETERNITY tennis bracelet with garnets

FILIPINIANA charm bracelet and small donut rings

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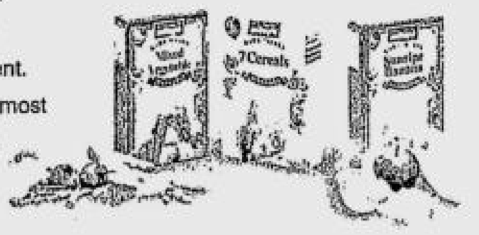

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The right tan and the right bikini

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I'D LOVE to get a slight tan before I head to the beach this summer. What do you think of self-tanners and the like? Are they easy to use and natural looking? What about tanning beds? Are they safe, effective and available here in Manila?

It's a great idea to try and get a slight tan before you go to the beach. Most times, city dwellers like us look so unhealthy and pale amid the deep blue ocean, pure white sand and shining yellow sun. You can actually achieve a sun-kissed look after a day or two at the beach, but you'll probably feel more confident about donning your itsy-bitsy bikinis if you already have a bit of an olive glow.

The safest way to get a tan is through the use of self-tanners that are readily available in the local market. Unlike direct exposure to the sun, self-tanners will not damage your skin and cause premature ageing, and possibly, skin cancer.

According to Ianne Sison, Cosmopolitan magazine's beauty editor, the easiest tanners to apply are water-based lotions, which are instantly absorbed by the skin. But before using such products, she recommends that you shower and then exfoliate with the use of a scrub or loofah to minimize dry patches that might cause blotches and streaks.

She also suggests that you take your time and ask someone to help you. This is one beauty routine that you cannot rush. So, lock the door, take your clothes off and relax.

Fair-skinned women (or men!) can avoid an unnatural looking tan by aiming for a healthy glow, instead of a "Bo Derek" type of deep tan. You can control the intensity of the tanner and avoid streaking by mixing one part lotion and one part self-tanner.

When applying the tanner, do your body by sections and apply one layer at a time. Most tanners take around 15 minutes to dry and an hour to show its effect but results vary depending on the product.

When applying the tanner on your face, squirt some tanner on your moisturizer and spread evenly, avoiding the lips and eyebrows. Skin folds, dry patches and areas like lips and eyebrows may cause the tanner to collect and result in an uneven tan, so it's a good idea to protect these areas by putting Vaseline or lotion. Don't apply the self-tanners on these areas, as they are already dark to begin with.

"When mixing your self-tanner with moisturizers or lotions, make sure your products have no exfoliating ingredients like salicylic acid and alpha-hydroxy acid as these will work against your purpose of achieving tanned skin," Ianne cautions.

Ianne's favorite self-tanners are Phytomer spray, an oil spray that's easy to apply; Hawaiian Tropic, a popular tanning line that carries a good self-tanner plus other products such as a lotion that can make a real tan last longer; Clarins, which is best for medium-toned complexions as it might turn orangey if you are too fair; L'Occitane, which has SPF so you can also wear it during the day before heading on out to the beach; and Baintree from Essences in Rustan's.

Self-tanners are safe bets. Skimpy bikinis are not bad if you have the right fit

IT'S a great idea to get a slight tan before heading for the beach.

Ianne warns that if you put on self-tanner and it looks bad, there's no way of removing it instantly. You can just speed up the process by exfoliating and using products like exfoliating lotions.

As for tanning beds, both Ianne and I do not recommend its use. Ianne says, "It's something akin to concentrated sun exposure. It can cause premature ageing and can speed up all the damage that may later on lead to skin cancer."

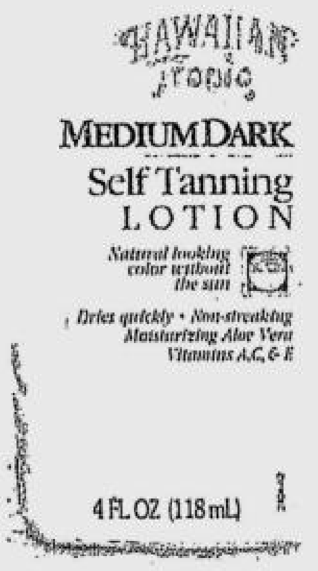
"Self-tanners are not that difficult to use. It will only take 30 minutes of your time and it's a great way to get a bit of color. I really encourage it," Ianne adds.

It's summertime once again and my friends and I are planning a trip to the beach. I really need to get a new bathing suit or bikini, but have no idea what style will suit me best. I'm 5'6" tall, rather flat-chested and skinny. What kind of suit should I buy?

Cosmopolitan magazine fashion editor Donna Cuna-Pita says that you can go two ways when picking the perfect bikini. First, you can choose to go skimpy by using triangle top bikinis with bold bright prints. This way, you expose more skin and are not weighed down by too much fabric. Fortunately for you, string bikinis always look best on thin women.

Your other option would be to choose bra tops with what Donna calls "boobifiers" or simply put, things and details that can make your breasts look bigger. They may be pads, shirring, ruffles, gathers and the like.

She suggests that you use a reasonable amount of padding so your breasts do not look fake. Also, make sure your swimsuits are well made and of good quality. If not, the padding might look heavy and unnatural once the foam gets wet.



It's best for you to wear two-piece swimsuits, but if you are quite conservative and are more comfortable wearing a maillot or a one-piece bathing suit, Donna suggests that you choose a style with cutouts, a plunging neckline or a bare back.

Donna recommends that you stay away from solid dark colors, high necklines and tankinis that might flatten your breasts even more. Stick to bright or light colors that can help create the illusion of added weight.

Meanwhile, stylish young designer Kate Torralba advises that boyish body types look good in bandeau styles and boy-cut swimsuits. She also recommends the use of bright prints that are flattering for lean figures, underwired swimwear and padding that is not exaggerated or artificial-looking.

"The best thing about having a lean frame is that you can pull off a variety of styles. Halter necklines broaden delicate shoulders while feminine touches like ruching or a bit of ruffle can enhance a less-than-ample bust line. And if you are brave enough, you can even get away with a stylish maillot or one piece with interesting details like color blocking and a cleverly positioned belt," Kate adds.

Kate wisely counsels that the right accessories pack added punch, "A chic cover-up such as a brightly patterned sarong or sheer tunic, a festive beach tote or even a straw hat boost not only your style factor but more importantly, your confidence."

You can find a good selection of swimwear in Tabú at the Greenbelt Shopping Plaza, Surfworld at the Power Plant Mall and Megamall, Nothing but Water at Robinsons Galleria, Itsie-Bitsie in Malate and the Mango boutiques at Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 2, Robinsons Ermita and Power Plant Mall.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

WHEN picking the perfect bikini, choose triangle top bikinis in bold bright colors or choose bra tops that can make your breasts look bigger.

PHOTOS REPRINTED FROM WWW.SWIMWEARDAILY.COM

Cosmetics for all skin types

COLOUR Collection's Skin Care series carries a range of products suited for different skin types. Dry facial skin won't be a problem when you use the Hydrating Pressed Powder in Porcelain or Natural shades. Blot your shine worries away with the Oil Control Bi-Cake Powder Foundation, which comes in medium and light medium shades.

Hide blemishes and dark spots while protecting your skin from the elements with Concealing Foundation in neutral colors. Protect your lips from harsh UV rays with the Sun Shield lipstick in subtle hues of Port, Sand and Coral.

Pucker up and moisturize those lips with the Spa Therapy Lipstick enriched with Hyasol, Lanolin and Vitamins A and E. They come in shades of Cedar Spring, Dewy Brownie, Purple Rain, Crimson Mist, Amber Dew, Fresh and Rosy, Berry Velvet and Juicy Plum.

For added protection, try the Softening Anti-chap Lipstick in shades of Soft Petal, Lush Berry, Tender Toffee and Smooth Latte.

Colour Collection Skin Care Series is available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct Selling (formerly House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. Call 810-5402, or e-mail customer_relations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

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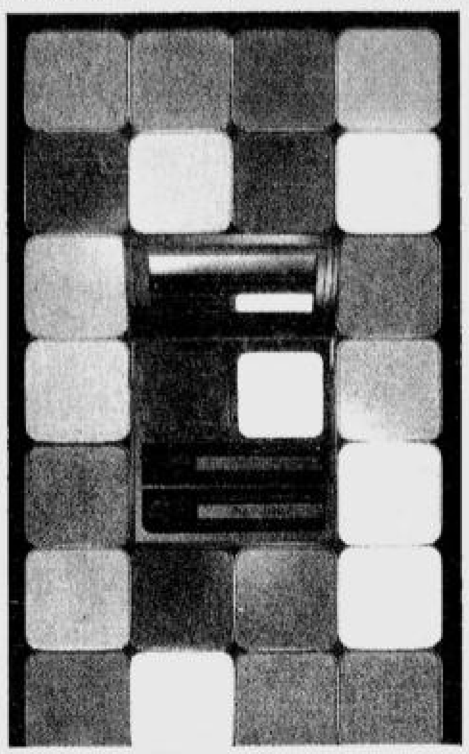


YSL Ombres Vibration Duo

Seductive eyes from YSL

YVES Saint Laurent Makeup has created two more dramatic innovations in eye makeup: the Ombres Vibration Duo under the Ligne Intense line that enhances the beauty and depth of the eyes; and the Mascara Longueur Intense that intensifies eyes to the tips of the lashes.

The Ombres Vibration Duo has color harmonies that give captivating allure to the eyes. Two types of silicone give the powder eye shadow exceptional silky softness and fine texture. The Ombres Vibration Duo's rich, velvety, airy-light texture evenly covers the eyelids. Shades can be layered and modulated for fabulous effects.

The makeup is long-lasting because of Serilisse-H, an exclusive innovation from YSL Beaute Research, which ensures hold for hours. Its smoothing properties promote adhesion of color. The anti-drying action suits the most delicate, sensitive eyelids.

The Ombres Vibration Duo comes in a wide range of shades that provide creative makeup effects.

It also comes in a square, dark brown compact embellished with gleaming gold. Designed for easy application, it features an integrated mirror and two foam applicators.

The Mascara Longueur Intense, on the other hand, gives instantly longer lashes. The formula and brush combine for extreme lengthening. The formula works like a hair extension, the nylon micro-fibers evenly spread on the surface of the lashes to lengthen them. A coating film gives them luster along their entire length, while pro-vitamin B5 and a complex of big-active sugars preserve their elasticity and flexibility, and a fixing film maintains their color.

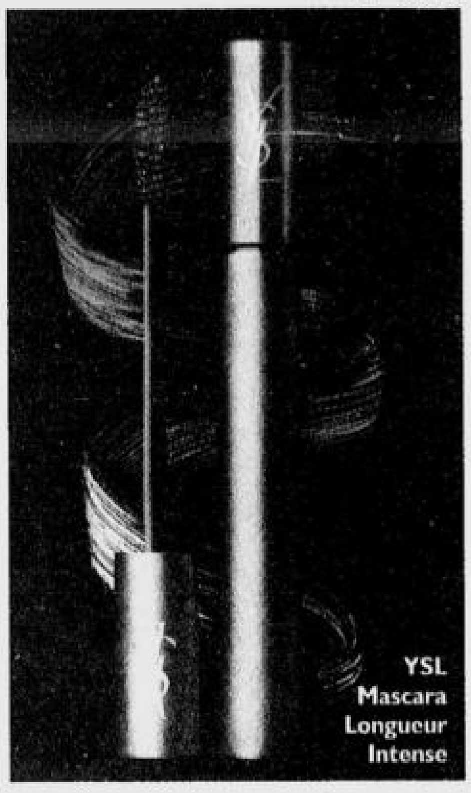
The asymmetrical brush draws out the lashes and gives them made-to-measure volume. Both sides can be used to model the effects.

A conditioning film, the "curly coat," further separates the lashes to give them maximum curl.

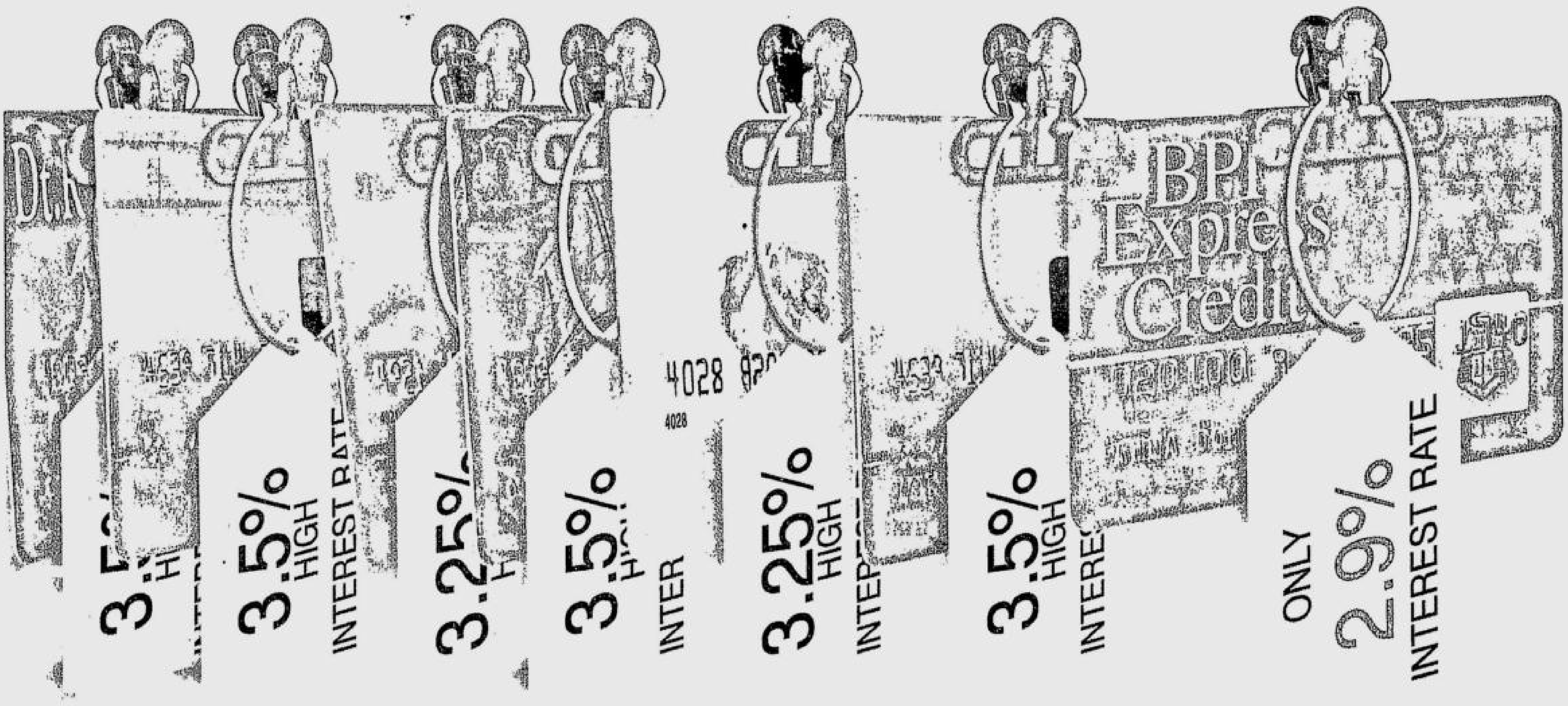
The Mascara Longueur Intense is available in vibrant, eye-catching shades.

The brush lets you obtain made-to-measure results, from subtle to sophisticated.

The Ombres Vibration Duo and the Mascara Longueur Intense are exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp., and is available in all leading department stores nationwide.



YSL Mascara Longueur Intense



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ANNETTE Coronel-Cruz in Lucea white gold necklace with three-diamond bib and dangling pearls and a pair of Classica earrings with teardrop diamond and dangling pearl.

MARINA Benipayo in Lucea necklace in white gold and diamonds and a pair of Lucea earrings in white gold, diamonds and pearls.

RACHEL Soriano in a pair of Lucea yellow gold dangling earrings with pearls and Lucea yellow gold necklace with oval elements and pearls.

The majesty of jewelry

The launch of Bvlgari's new lines attracts the well-heeled and the multi-stoned

From page D1

jewelry company launched its newest jewelry collection in an exclusive dinner recently at the Makati Shangri-la's Cheval Blanc.

Joining Imelda at the presidential table were Nedy Tantoco, Patrick Jacinto, DJ Lopez, Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and Canadian Ambassador Robert Colette and his wife.

The launch had a repeat the next night also at the same venue.

The two-night affair also drew the likes of Bea and Jaime Zobel, Sofia and Patxi Elizalde, Irene Martel-Francisco, Mons and Sander Tantoco, Vicky Zubiri, Anton San Diego, Vicky Belo and Atom Henares, among others. Bvlgari fan Gretchen Barretto was a no-show.

Eager women

Not that the dessert that capped the dinner was bad, but everybody in the room, especially the women, was obviously more eager to feast their eyes on Bvlgari's pricey baubles as modeled later by top mannequins Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Annette Coronel-Cruz, Marina Benipayo and Rachel Soriano.

The collection consisted mostly of pieces from Bvlgari's Classica and Lucea lines. To give you an idea of how expensive Bvlgari is, not a single item fetched below P100,000. The priciest piece, the Nuvole diamond necklace set on platinum, went for a cool P3.5 million.

Other multimillion-peso pieces include the Festoni Classica diamond necklace set on white gold (P2,075,000), the Parentesi diamond necklace set on yellow gold (P2,200,000) and the Ovale diamond watch set on yellow gold (P2,650,000).

No wonder Bvlgari has become the preferred jewelry of "women of substance."

What sets the luxury brand apart from others? Mario Katigbak, GM of Bvlgari in the Philippines, cites three factors: the quality of Bvlgari's stones; a unified style statement; and the effort the company puts into market research.

"It's easy to come up with all sorts of designs, but not in Bvlgari's case," he says. "Every piece from a particular collection is interconnected and fits the lifestyles of today's women."

Designers, for example, have come up with a more streamlined version of the Lucea necklace for "everyday" use. It was designed with younger, more active women in mind. Nonetheless, Bvlgari has retained its chunkier, more ornate pieces for evening affairs.

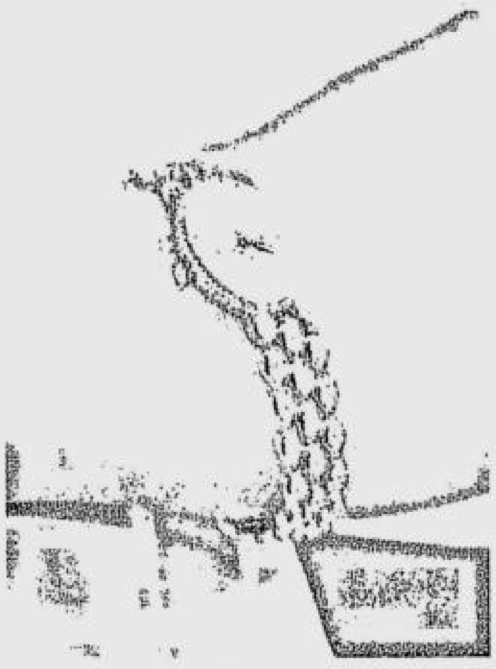
Test of time

Not only is Bvlgari an ideal piece of investment, it's also a classic piece designed to withstand the test of time.

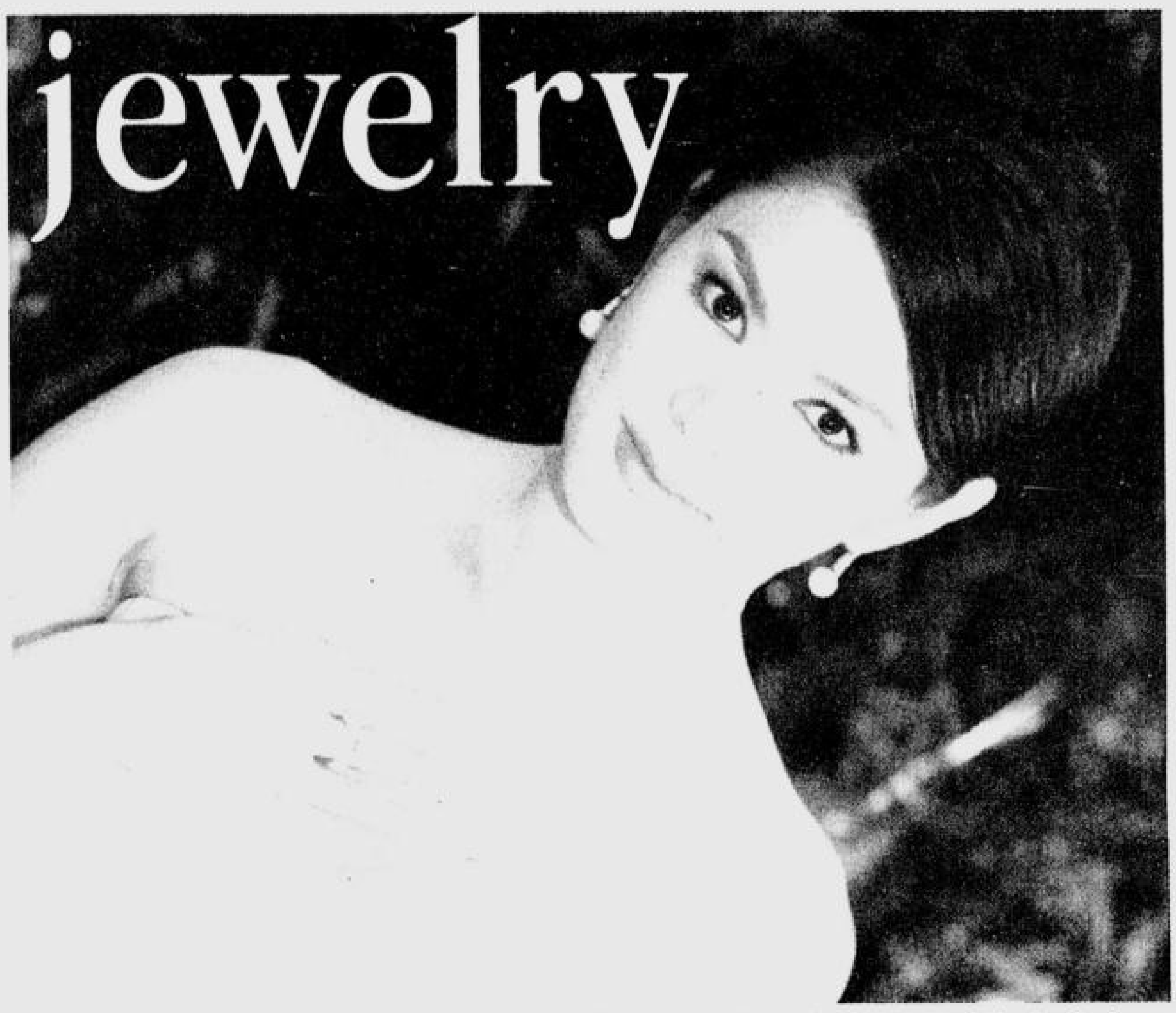
"Every item is an heirloom piece your children and grandchildren will treasure," Katigbak adds. "They won't think of having it melted and converted into something else."

Bvlgari also pays close attention to details. Aside from choosing only the best precious

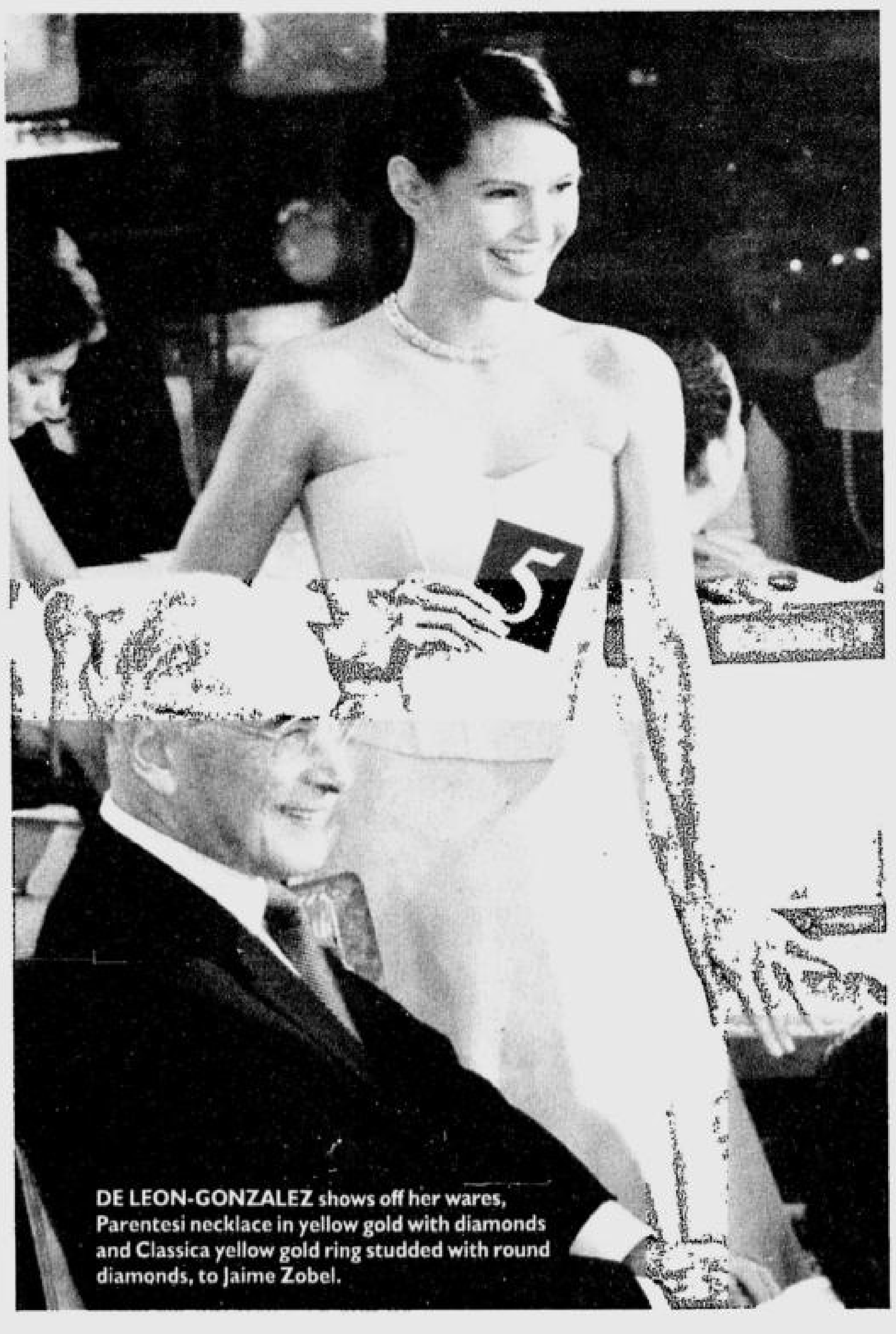
THE MAJESTY/ D7



OVALE yellow gold diamond watch

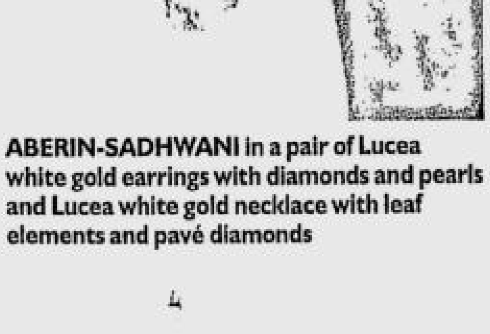


APPLES Aberin-Sadhwani in a pair of Classica earrings in white gold with diamonds and pearls and Classica ring in white gold with diamonds.

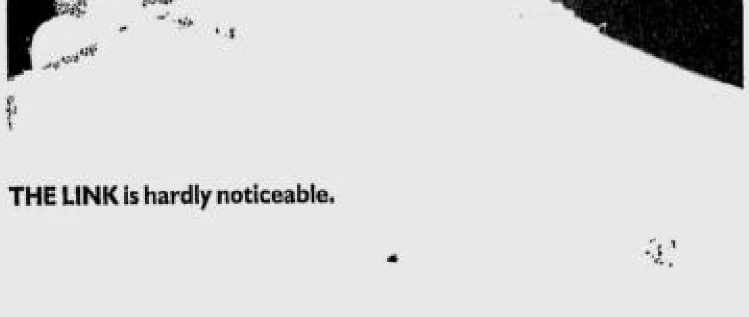


DE LEON-GONZALEZ shows off her wares, Parentesi necklace in yellow gold with diamonds and Classica yellow gold ring studded with round diamonds, to Jaime Zobel.

BENIPAYO in Lucea yellow gold necklace with oval dangling elements and matching Lucea bracelet.



ABERIN-SADHWANI in a pair of Lucea white gold earrings with diamonds and pearls and Lucea white gold necklace with leaf elements and pavé diamonds



THE LINK is hardly noticeable.

VICKY Belo and Atom Henares

HANS Sicat, Regina Sicat, Sofia Elizalde, Jaime Zobel and Patxi Elizalde

DE LEON-GONZALEZ models pieces of Bvlgari jewelry to former first lady Imelda Marcos and Patrick Jacinto.

NATY Pappas and daughter

The majesty of jewelry

From page D6

stones to achieve "unmatched brilliance," designers make sure that there are more stones than metal that go into every piece. Thus, the shine that one sees comes from actual stones and not from clumps of metal.

"What they see is what they get," says Katigbak.

Of course, imitation is the best form of flattery. This, however, is something a prestige brand such as Bvlgari can do without. But try as they may, copycats can't duplicate or come close to the workmanship that goes into every piece of Bvlgari jewelry.

Take the Parentesi line of necklaces and bracelets. While imitators take shortcuts by using a single piece of mold, says Katigbak, Bvlgari uses individually molded elements and then attaches each piece to a so-called spinal column to form a strand.

"When worn every piece virtually has no beginning and no end since the link is hardly noticeable," Katigbak adds.

Despite the hard times, Katigbak is quite optimistic that Bvlgari will continue to do well in the country. However, he remains vague when asked to define the brand's target market.

"Bvlgari is for people with good taste who go for classic designs and superb workmanship," he says. "We derive pleasure not from the sales we make, but from the satisfaction derived by a market that understands and appreciates the work that went into each piece."

From the number of elite guests who went to the two night-Bvlgari launch, Manila's perfumed set sure knows its jewelry.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

NORA Torres and Nympha Yatco

MAURICE Arcache and Bea Zobel

MYRNA Elizalde, Mari Carmen Elizalde, Marco Elizalde and Francisco Elizalde Sr.

SANDER and Mons Tantoco, Vicky Zubiri and Anton San Diego

BVLGARI GM Mario Katigbak, Irene Martel Francisco, Randy Francisco and Joy Wassmer

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BUDDING BEAUTIES. From [illegible] Anna Bettina Carlos, Chrislyn C[illegible] Khristine Yvette Jocson, [illegible] and [illegible] Urbanozo

Trend Spotting

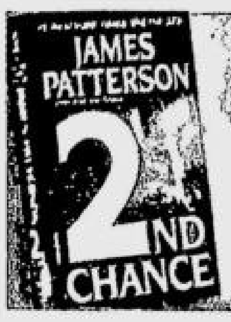
Pretty in Baddeo

The designer known for whimsical designs on the runway spins elegant, sophisticated gowns for prom princesses

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

TEN years ago, the mother picked the design for the gown her daughter would wear to a prom or a grad ball. But these days, according to designer Eddie Baddeo, the mom is there only to give her approval and discuss the budget.

PRETTY/ E2



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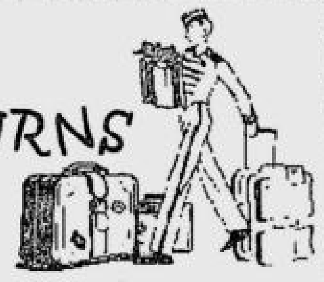

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TAKE THEM TO THE PROM ON TIME. But first, the girls clown around the Mandarin Oriental's Taipan Suite.

Pretty in Baddeo

PROM QUEEN. Lea Urbanozo in a strapless princess-cut number in Thai silk fabric. The fuchsia gown is scattered with lace flowerets and caviar beads and accented with mesh tulle [illegible]

From page E1

Sure, Baddeo admits, he has been caught in clashes between moms and daughters, but he has learned how to handle the situation.

"You have to make them meet halfway," he laughs. "That way, everyone ends up happy."

Going to a designer for a prom or grad ball dress may seem like a lot of expense, but Baddeo says it also proves that girls have become more sophisticated in their choices.

The fashion awareness of young women has dramatically changed in the last 10 years. They know the trends, says Baddeo, because they watch TV and surf the Internet, aside from devouring magazines and newspapers.

"The girls now want to look elegant and sexy," he says. "They ask for tube gowns and back-baring designs." They are even quite definite about their choice of colors.

In the Taipan Suite of the Mandarin Oriental Manila, Baddeo scampers about, all at once giving directions to his staff and the makeup artists, herding his six prom beauties into the bedroom like mother hen and showing their moms around the room (and politely informing them they can't stay for the duration of the shoot).

In the bedroom, the designer personally takes out the accessories from the boxes and puts them one by one on the girls while giving orders to retouch one girl's makeup and the other's hair.

'Babies'

"They're so pretty, *di ba*?" he beams proudly like they are his own. Then he takes about the gowns—his real "babies"—each created specially for each girl.

The six creations are impressively sexy and sophisticated, a lot like the kinds one would see on Hollywood celebrities on Oscar night, not what one would expect on 15-year-olds. They are in no way like the quirky and whimsical designs Baddeo is known to show on the runways.

"You'll be surprised," he says. "These are exactly how they (the girls) want their prom gowns to look like. They want one-of-a-kind pieces. Buying off the rack no longer cuts it. They compare notes; they know which designers to go to. They've become competitive."

Baddeo dispels the notion that going to a designer for a dress is expensive. "It shouldn't intimidate anybody. Price is always negotiable," he says.

Designing prom and graduation ball gowns allows Baddeo to explore more creative avenues. The designs and colors are youthful and exciting, he says. Unlike creating clothes for a wedding entourage where several parties have a say on the design down to the color motif, for prom dresses, Baddeo only has to adjust according to the school's restrictions, if any.

Baddeo proudly says his designs have been winning the prom queen and best-in-gown crowns for his young clients. And the word gets around. He gets swamped with up to 30 orders of gowns during prom season. It's a lot of work but "I love doing it, so how can I complain?"

His satisfied clients, prom queen material all, certainly aren't complaining.

FAIR LADIES. Nikki Salaysay's teal blue gown is made of frosted silk and embellished with caviar beads. The haltered confection with a scooped back has a Mandarin collar. Chrislyn Co's Thai silk burgundy number features a one-sided draped chiffon strap and Swarovski crystals on the bodice. The stretch yellow tube ensemble looks fresh on Tracy Anne Muralla. The gown is embellished with lace appliqués and caviar beads and accented with ruffled horsehair on the neckline.

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL. Khristine Yvette Jocson wears a green strapless empire-cut gown with crushed draped bodice. The iridescent taffeta skirt is scattered with caviar beads. Anna Bettina Carlos' lavender haltered back-baring number is made of tie-dyed chiffon and embellished with metallic sequins.

MODELS:
ANNA BETTINA CARLOS, KRISTLE NIKKI SALAYSAY, LEA URBANOZO, TRACY ANNE MURALLA, CHRISLYN CO AND KHRISTINE YVETTE JOCSON

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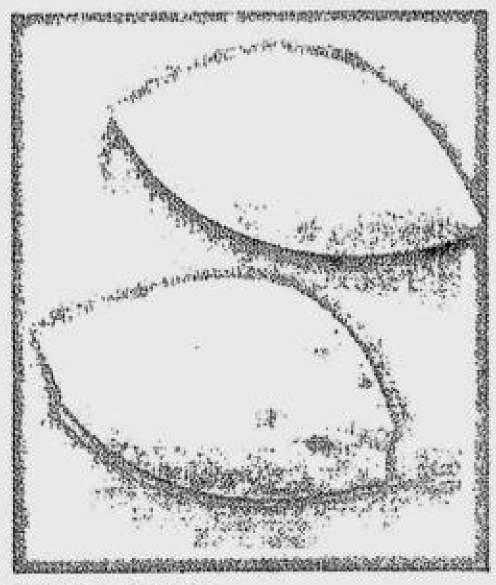
What to wear under those fabulous, revealing gowns

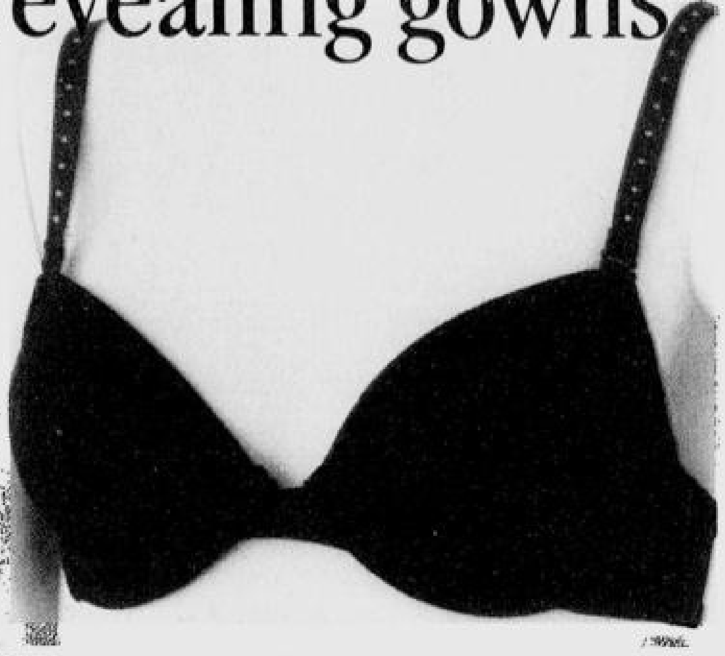


GEL and foam pads

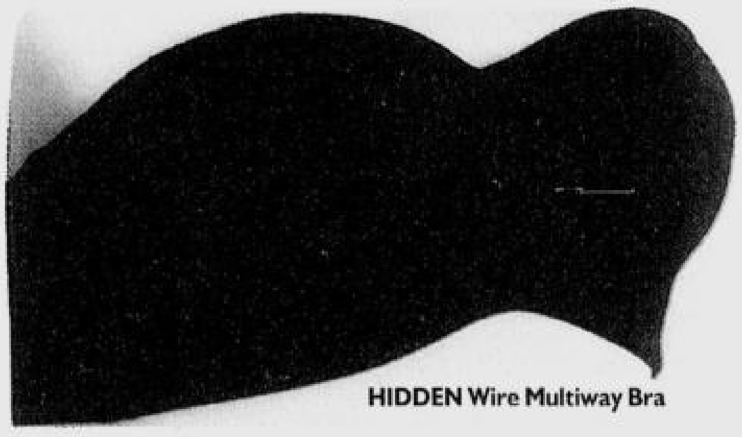
NOW available in the market is an exciting range of innerwear that allows women to create the perfect bra for every occasion.

Marks & Spencer's Create-A-Bra line offers a wide range of choices. The Sheer Multiway Bra is available in black with sheer straps. Other straps available are in diamante and gold star straps. The Stick-on bra gives great support even under the most revealing top. The Hidden Wire Multiway Bra is a versatile bra that can be worn strapless, halter-neck, crossover or conventionally.

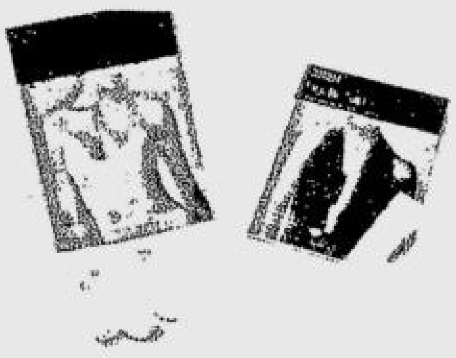
The Comfy Straps keep bra straps in place, keeping them from slipping and prevent shoulder indentation—discreet under clothing. Gel and Foam Pads are specially shaped to fit easily and neatly into the pockets of padded bras, foam or gel-filled pads that subtly lift the breasts' shape.



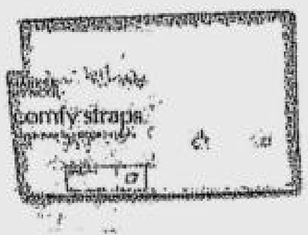
SHEER Multiway Bra



HIDDEN Wire Multiway Bra



NIPPLE covers and body tapes



COMFY straps

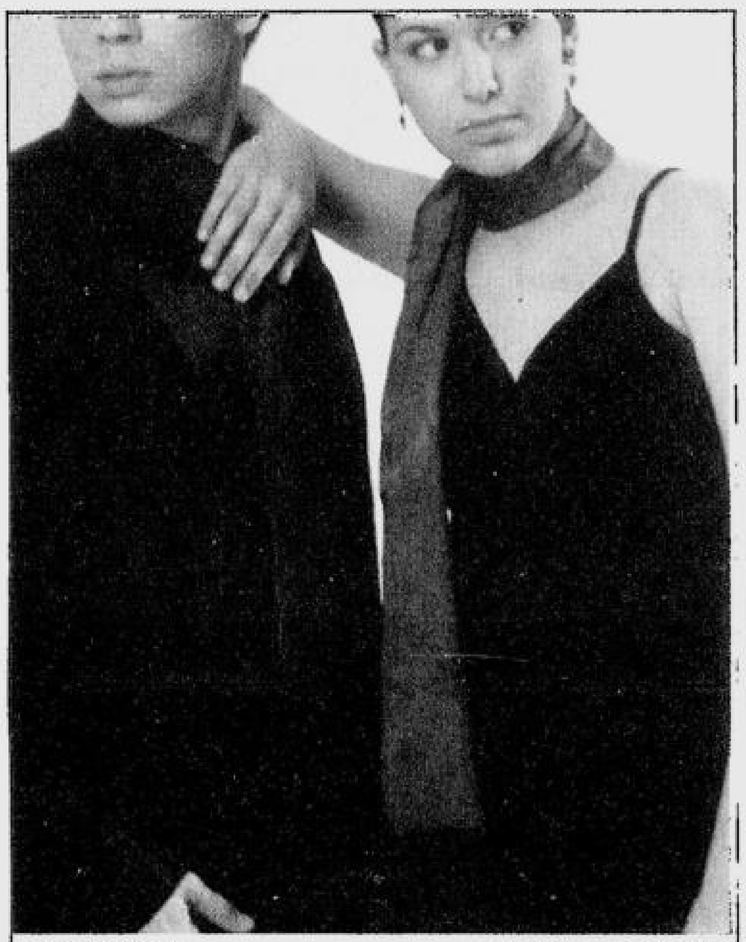
Marks & Spencer has also created a choice of pads for extra lift and accessories to help women feel confident in more revealing clothes.

Nipple Covers provide discreet coverage for breast nipple showing through close-fitting or sheer garments. Wear them inside a swimsuit or bra or under a close-fitting garment for a very smooth look.

The Body Tape attaches a woman's preferred garment to her body and helps clothes stay where they should be. The Body Tape is ideal for wearing very low-cut garments.

Marks & Spencer is located at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, Greenbelt 3, Power Plant Mall, Robinson's Place Manila, Harrison Plaza, Robinson's Starmill Pampanga and Ayala Center Cebu. Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc. is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer.

Prom perfect

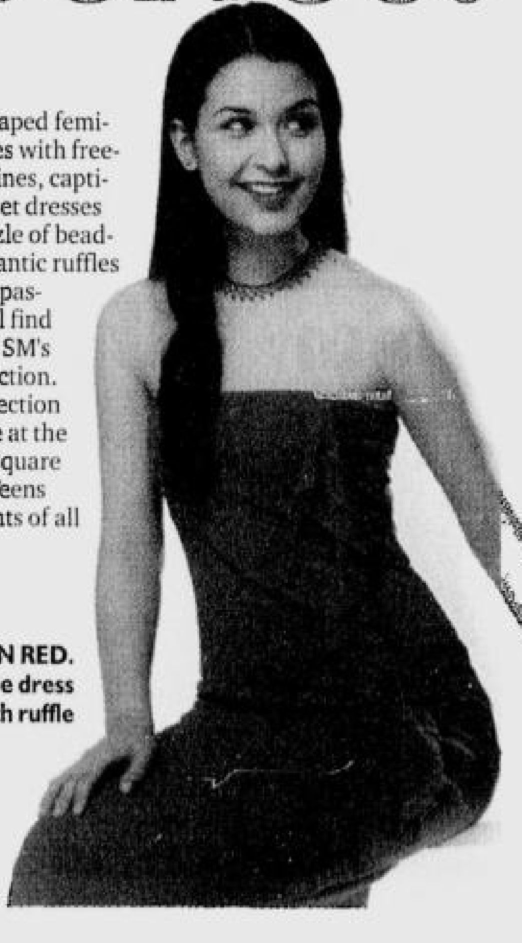


LITTLE BLACK DRESS. V-neck lined spaghetti strapped dress worn with two-toned maroon and black shawl on her while he's wearing a black suit pants atop a long-sleeved shirt worn with maroon tie.

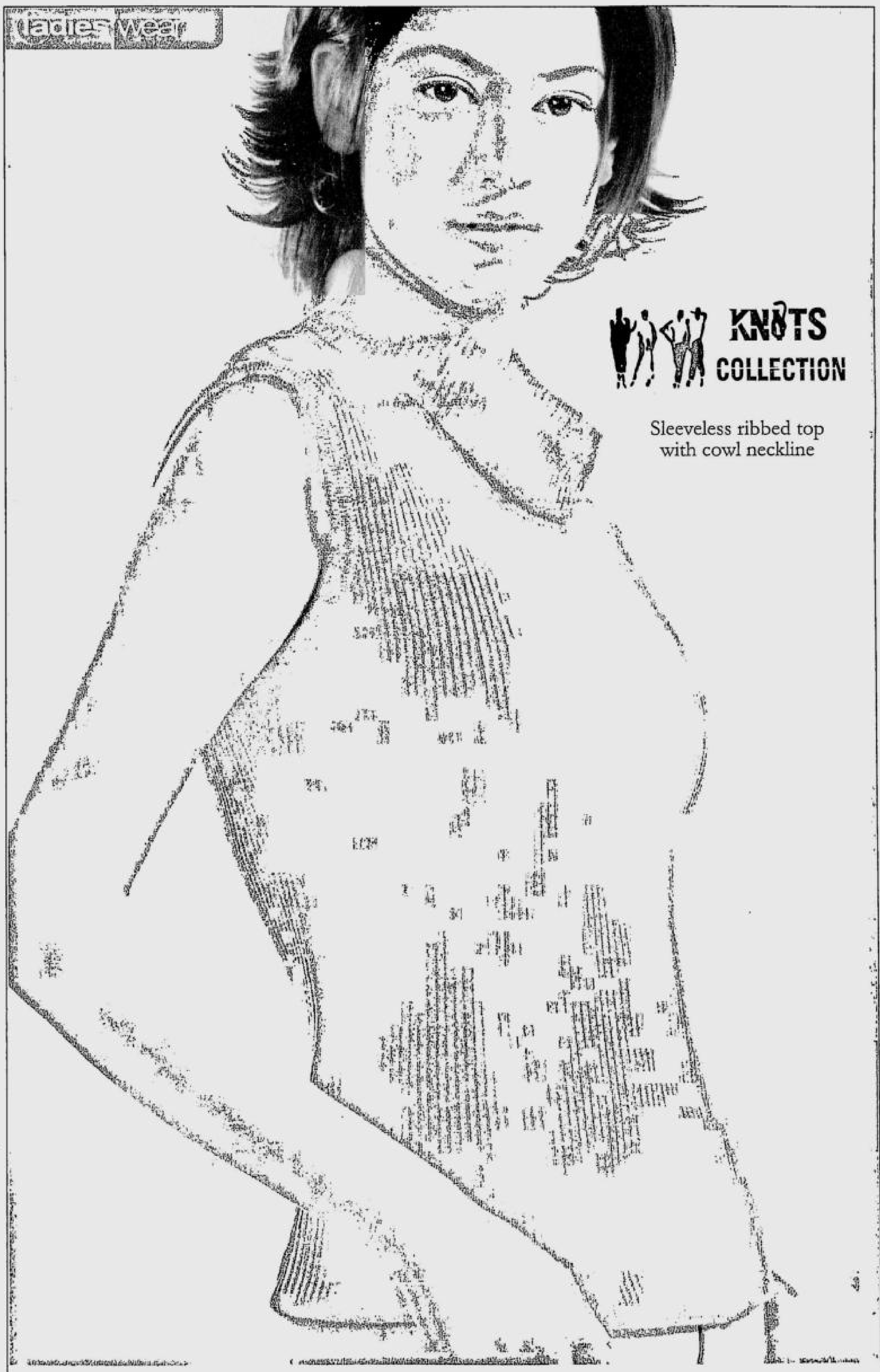
THE BIG NIGHT. Cowl neck body hugging beige dress with lace band accent at the waist worn with matching shawl.

SOFTLY draped feminine dresses with free-form hemlines, captivating corset dresses with a dazzle of beadwork, romantic ruffles and pretty pastels—you'll find them all in SM's Prom collection.

The collection is available at the Boutique Square and Girls Teens Departments of all SM stores.



LADY IN RED. Red tube dress with ruffle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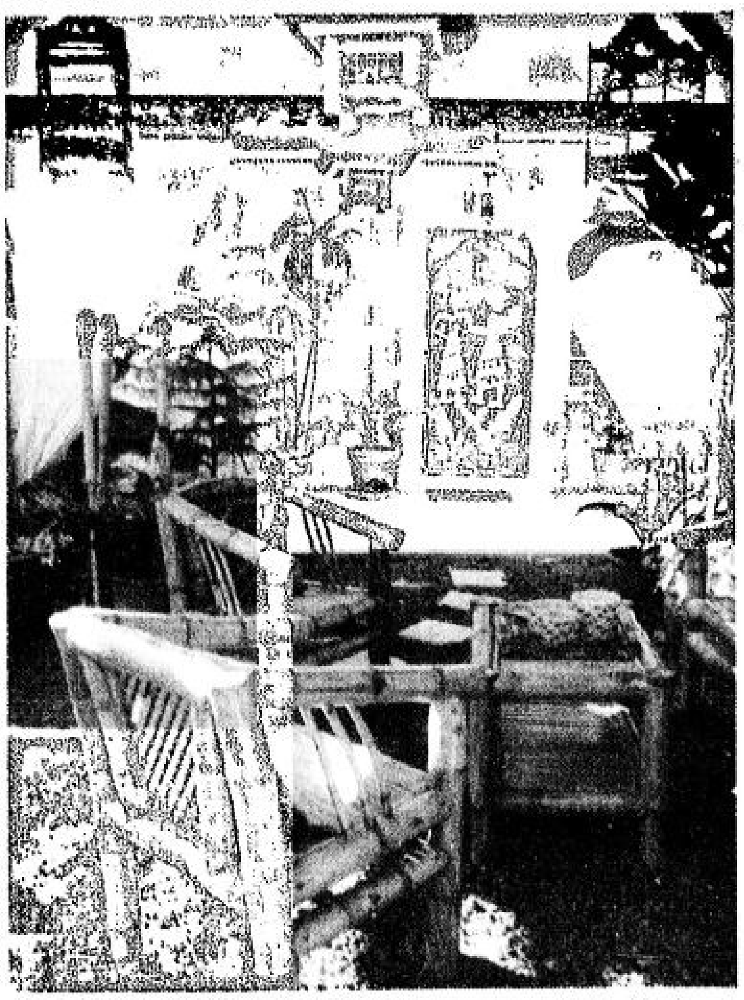
Bali high

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto



BAMBOO chairs and intricate Balinese bird cages under a shingle-covered canopy make for a cozy setting.

The Bali Place showcases the exotic tropical landscape, rich culture and relaxed lifestyle

PASSIONS, they say, are rooted in childhood.

As a young girl, Nina Malvar often accompanied her grandfather to his farm in Bataan on weekends. The trips exposed her to farming techniques that later came in handy when she decided to turn the farm into a mango orchard.

"I studied the whole aspect of planting mangoes, which got me interested in learning how to grow vegetables, ornamental plants, palms and, even later on, other trees and plants," she says.

After spending more than half her life in

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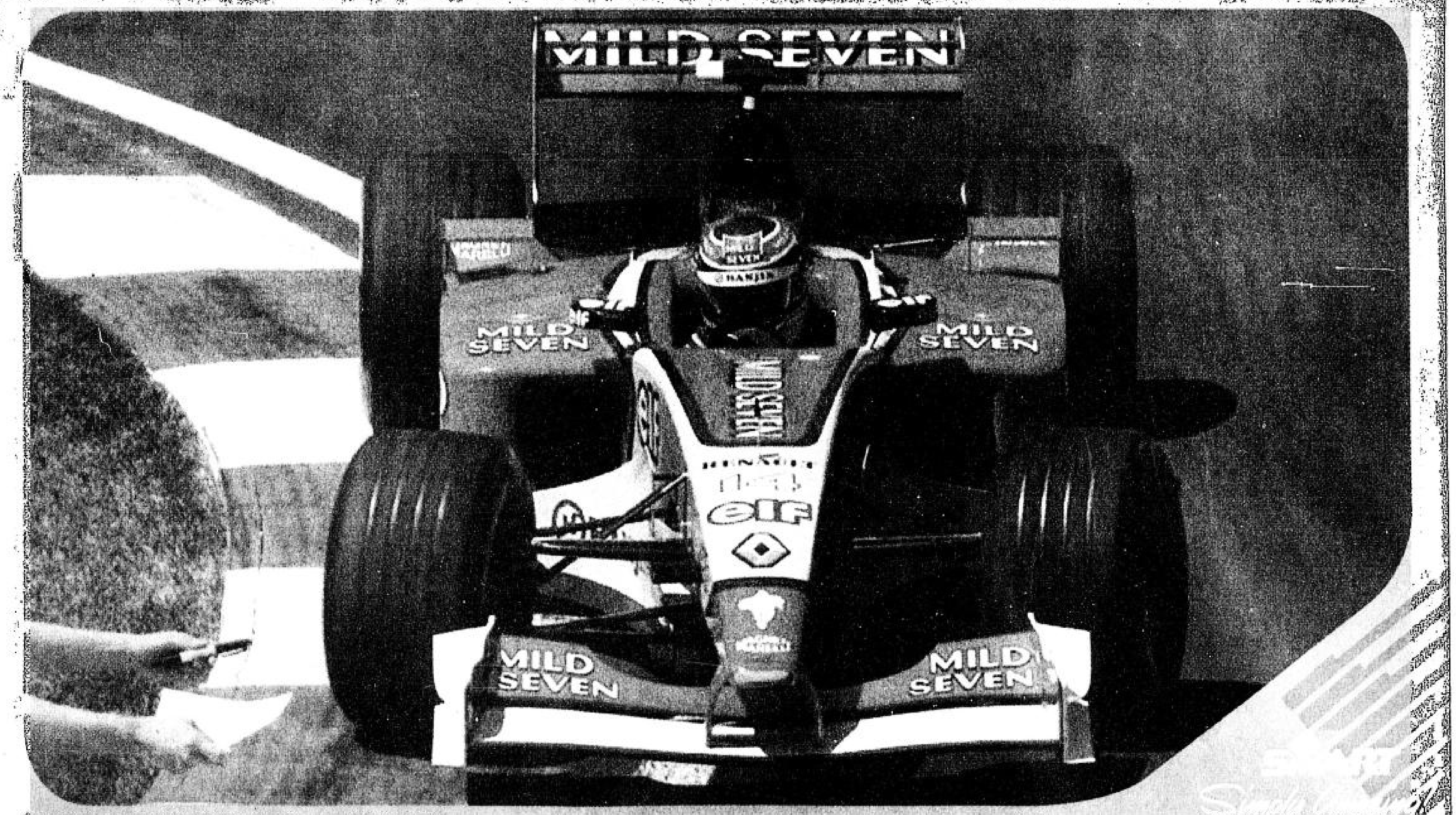

Simply

There's an easier way to get an autograph.

Calling all speed freaks! Answer trivia questions about the Mild Seven F1 Team correctly for the chance to win authentic Mild Seven F1 shirts or autographed Mild Seven F1 items.

M7F1

290

1. To play the Mild Seven F1 Trivia Game type, M7F1.
2. Send to 290.

Sample question: What are the colors of the Mild Seven F1 Team?
a) blue and yellow
b) black and red
c) gold and silver

M7F1REG <answer> <name> <address> <bday>
(For initial entry only)

3. The first multiple-choice trivia question will be sent.
4. To answer, type M7F1REG <answer> <name> <address> <bday> and send to 290 (For initial entry only.)

To get more regular F1 updates, type **M7F1 NEWS** and send to 290.

To download an operator logo, type **MLOGO <keyword>** and send to 290.

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alonsol1
F. ALONSO
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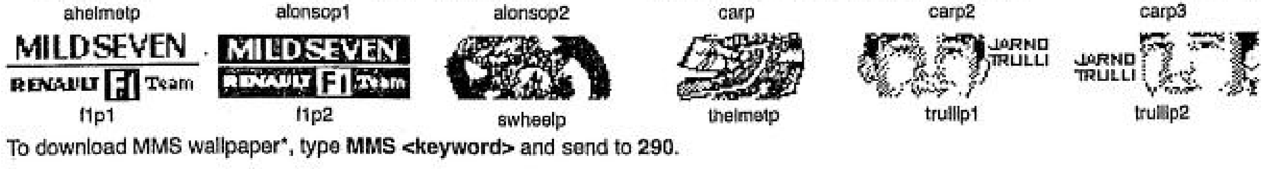
trullil2

To download a picture message, type **MPIC <keyword>** and send to 290.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To download MMS wallpaper*, type **MMS <keyword>** and send to 290.

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*Exclusively for MMS capable handsets. P2.50 will be charged for every text message sent to 290. P15.00 will be charged per download of operator logos, picture messages and MMS wallpaper. Promo duration: February 12 to March 8. See flyers for details.

In cooperation with: MILD SEVEN RENAULT F1

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This promo is open to Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers at least 18 years old, with Text Messaging Service. For questions or concerns, you may call the SMART hotline at 888 1111, e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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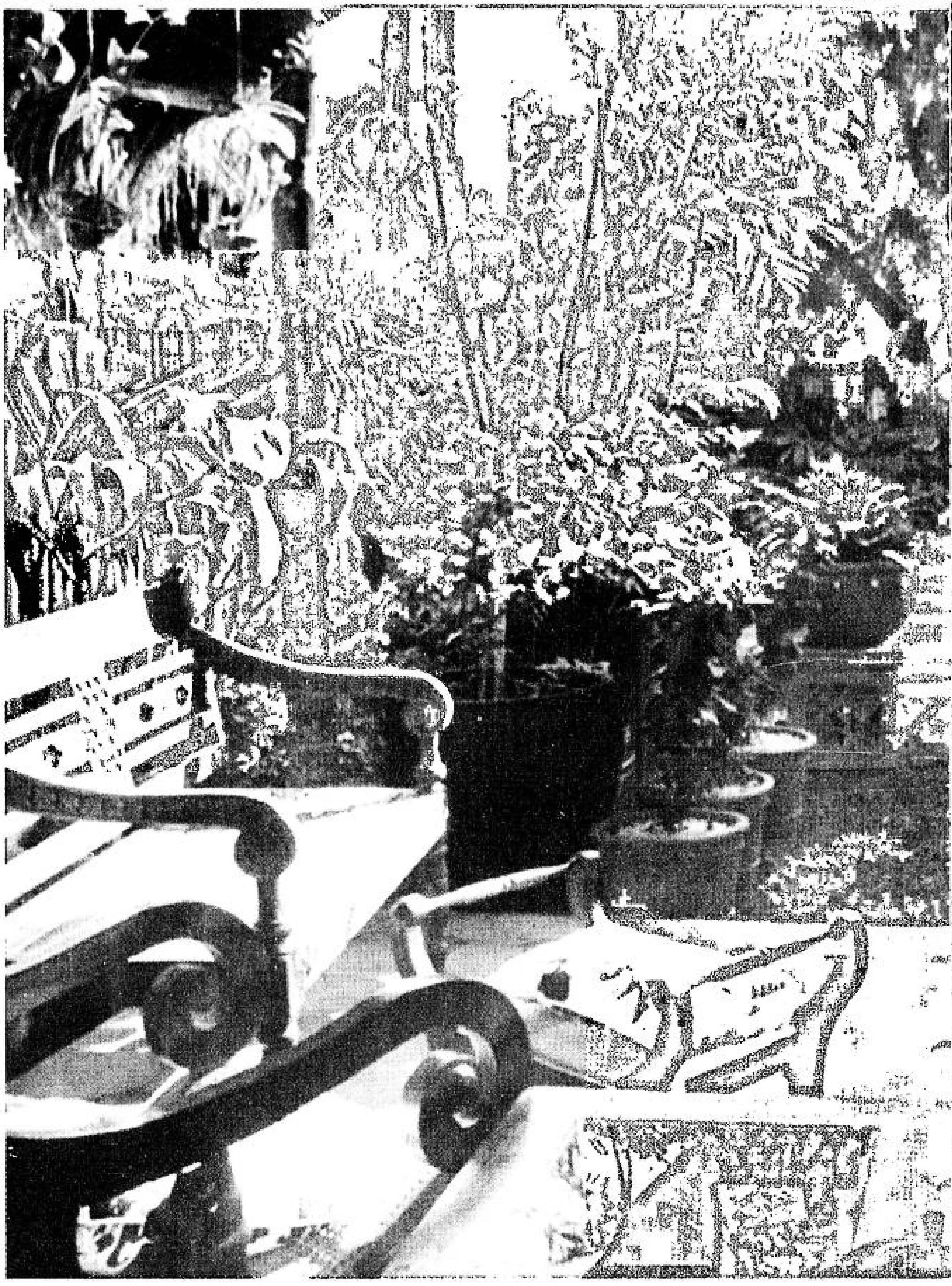
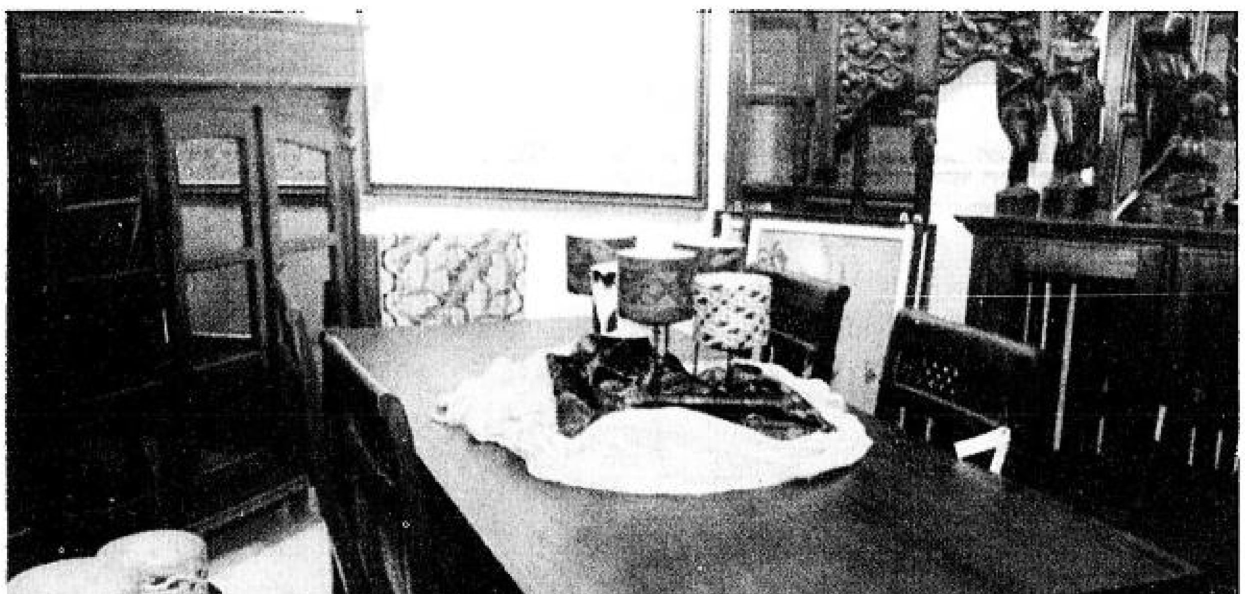
WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH

SOLITARY *cogon*-covered cabana with a Paras-stone fountain





TEAKWOOD dining set for six from Indonesia

Bali high

From page F1

the cutthroat corporate world, specifically finacing, Malvar decided to shift gears and rekindle a childhood passion.

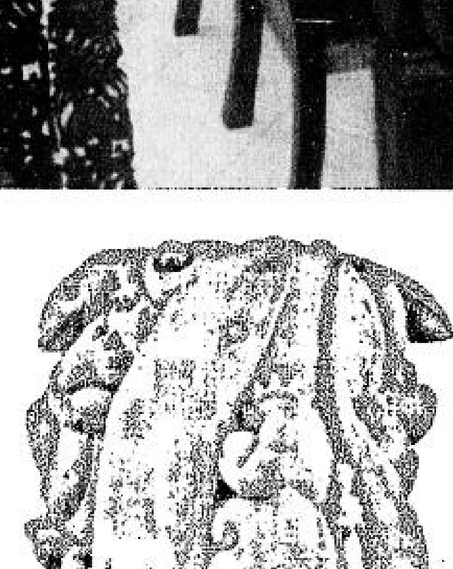
"It seems clear now that I was destined to develop this same farm where we now grow mangoes and other fruit-bearing trees. Next came my designing and planting my home garden, which displayed my penchant for tropical plants, water pond and murals," she adds. "My garden attracted the attention and admiration of friends and colleagues, and this encouraged me to learn more. Soon I found myself creating gardens for friends."

Paradise regained

This led to a business called Bali Place, a landscaping company that aims to recreate for clients bits of the Indonesian "Island of the Gods."

"Bali is a tropical paradise blessed with lush foliage, mountain villages, green-terraced rice fields, serene lakes and magical sunrises," Malvar gushes. Her company tries to bring into the homes of her clients some part of a landscape that evokes serenity, peace and calm.

MAGICAL. Hurricane candles with Indonesian prints designed by Nina Malvar



LIZARD family statuary created from Paras stone

This is paradise regained for those sourcing plants and accessories for landscaping, and imported island furniture

WELCOME TO PARADISE. Main entrance to the Bali Place showroom

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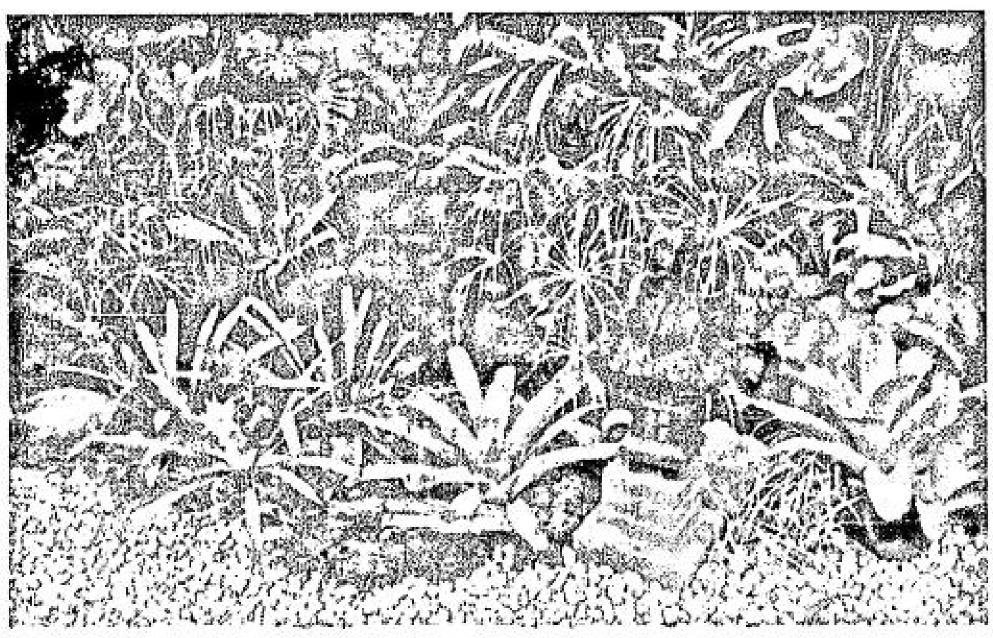
BALINESE gardens are for relaxing and do not require high-maintenance.

RECREATING Bali is the passion of Nina Malvar, shown here in her garden



DETAILS. Homegrown bromeliads and traditional Indonesian thatched roof lanterns lift this spot above the ordinary.

A QUIET spot to meditate adorned by bromeliads, palms and a Paras stone fountain spout

"It has been a passion for me to create Balinese gardens and adopt the diverse features of Bali for my landscapes," she says.

A constant feature of her designs is the cabana by a scented garden with some kind of fountain where people can just relax and unwind, enjoying nature at its best.

Malvar trained with Made Wijaya, one of the best Balinese landscape architects. Wijaya, aka Michael White in his native Australia, had been a resident of Bali since 1973. He planted his first garden in his own house in Sanur. It attracted so much admiration he eventually gave up other pursuits and became a full-time landscape designer.

Wijaya has completed more than 300 projects, not only in Bali—where he worked on the landmark Bali Hyatt gardens, the Four Seasons Resort and Amanjiwo gardens—but also other parts of Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and the Carribean. He is the author of "The Encyclopedia of Balinese Architecture," "Tropical Garden Design" and "At Home in Bali," which were all well-received internationally.

Creating legacies

"Made's landscapes evoke the magical charm of Bali and, like him, I like my work to be a legacy to its owners," Malvar says with a smile.

Bali Place itself is a slice of the fabled paradise. Walking into Malvar's showroom is like being transported into a different time and place. Immediately your stress level drops as you sit on a comfortable bamboo chair in a *cogon*-covered cabana. The wind blows gently across your face as you listen to the gentle and calming ripple of water from one of the many fountains.

The property, according to Malvar, was an abandoned basketball court with a rundown house formerly used as a Korean worship center. Malvar has completely transformed the 800-sq-m property that houses her Asian furniture showroom and various Balinese landscape design setups.

"Putting the landscape and furniture business in one place seemed to be the practical thing to do since our clients can go to just one place for their requirements for landscape, interior design and construction," she says. The showroom, though brand-new, is getting a lot of "traffic" as Malvar's clientele has grown steadily through word of mouth. Majority of the clients comes from the neighboring posh Ayala Alabang Village. Among the notables is actor Aga Muhlach, who is currently renovating his home and garden.

High quality, low price

Malvar's pieces are reasonably priced although they come from Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. In fact, they are priced much lower than in the malls and yet the quality is just as excellent. "We have direct sourcing from furniture makers and traders in Indonesia and Burma, plus we have direct tie-ups with national artists in Vietnam. This is the reason we are able to keep our prices at a reasonable level," she explains.

Years of training in finance and exposure to various countries have paid off for Malvar. "I've really been doing this as a hobby-business for the last 10 years and my clients have become my good friends," she smiles. "Landscaping has given me the opportunity to display my talent as an artist in the field of landscape design and [I] enjoy creating a reason for my clients to yearn to return to the place they call home," she adds.

Malvar highlights the pluses of having a tropical or Balinese garden. She says the biggest advantage is high impact but low-maintenance. "This garden is perfect for busy people who want a stunning landscape but don't have the time to regularly prune, weed or mow. These are gardens where most of your time is spent relaxing rather than working or slaving over its maintenance," she explains.

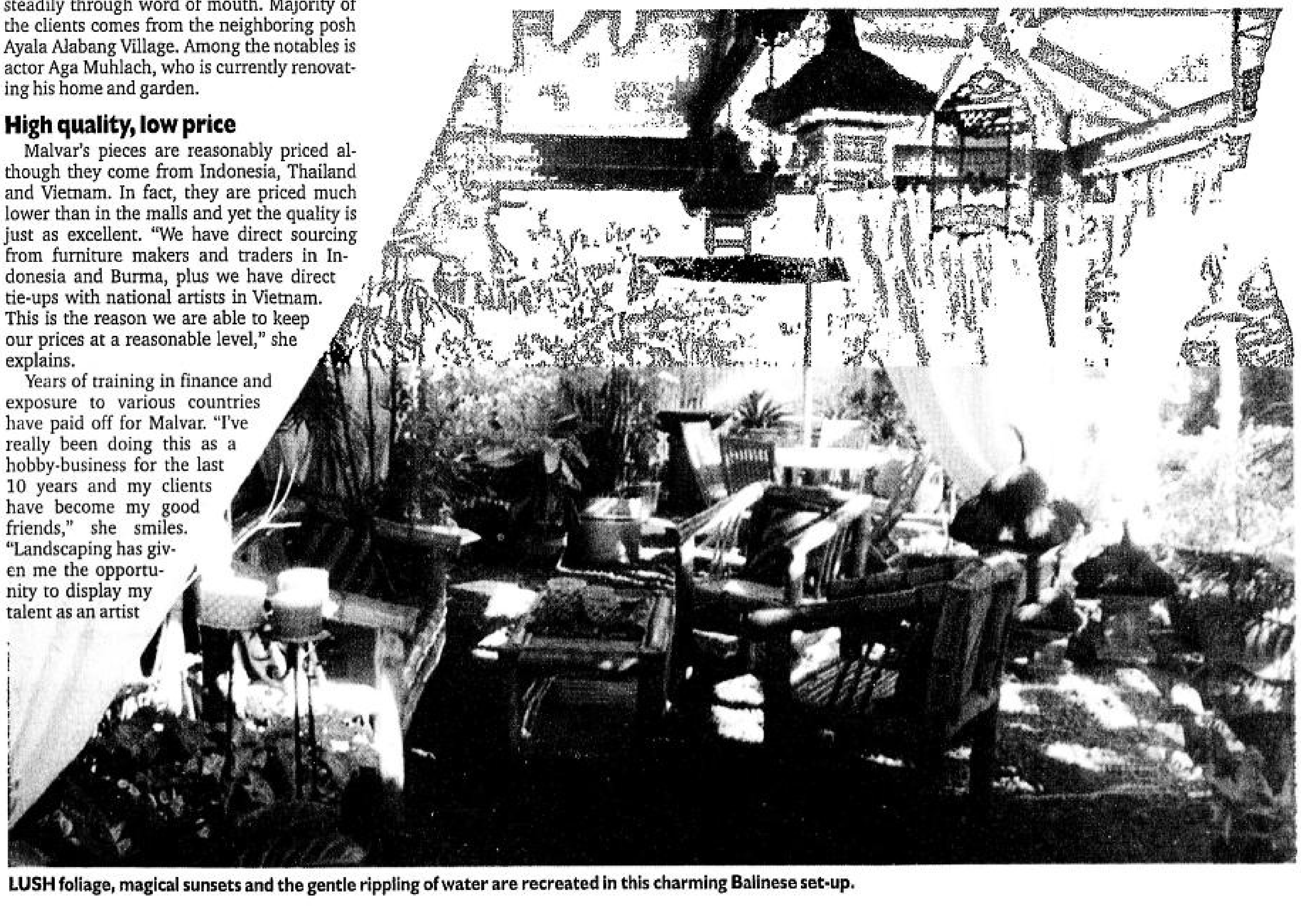
She stresses though that attention to detail makes a garden attractive and special. "Structural decisions such as defining basic patterns, boundaries and sloping sites have significant impact but even small details like pathway, lighting and ornamentation can lift a small garden above the ordinary," she explains.

An early riser, Malvar begins her day at 5:30 a.m. with an hour of prayer before heading to her home garden nursery and other appointments for the day. Her day ends around 11 p.m. again with a prayer.

Malvar is thankful to be able to combine her passion and thriving business at the same time. She says it just happened as part of God's perfect plan. From the fabulous way her gardens have turned out, He must be in the details of the landscape, too.

Bali Place is located at 12 Palace St., BF Homes International, Las Piñas City. Call 825-1498 or 827-8470.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



LUSH foliage, magical sunsets and the gentle rippling of water are recreated in this charming Balinese set-up.

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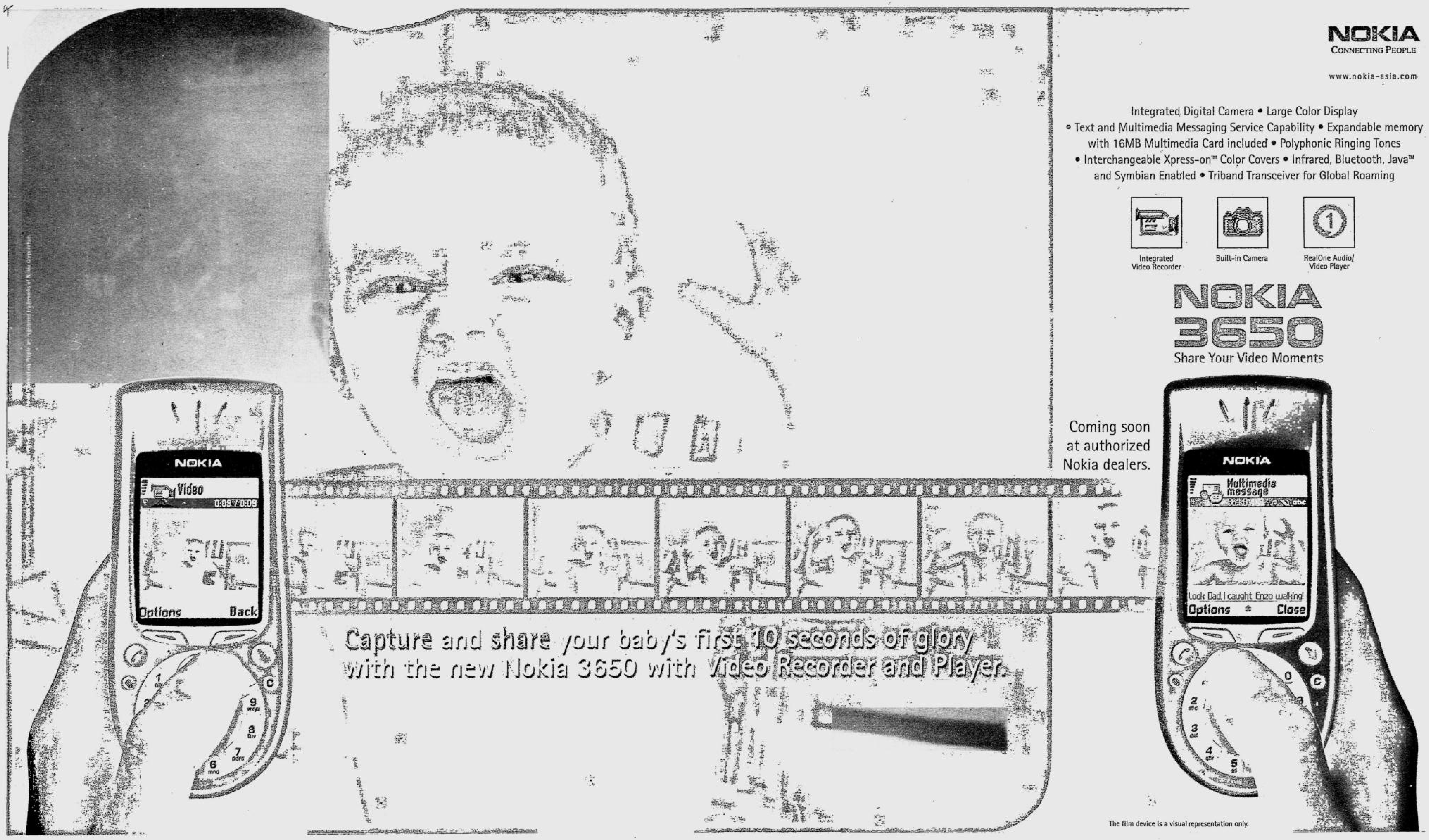

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Can development and conservation coexist?

The most fearful stories I come across these days are not of witches or vampires or ghosts but of watersheds and habitats lost to development

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE MAGROVE forests of Palawan are being destroyed, reports the Southern Luzon Bureau of this paper. And the cause, it says, are the proliferating shrimp farms in the area.

The problem seems a worldwide one, which is why an international conference on the "Impact of Shrimp Aquaculture on Mangroves and Local Communities" was held in Puerto Princesa early January.

Marine biologists and environmental activists from 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended the affair and, on the basis of studies and researches on the matter, are now proposing the removal of shrimp aquaculture and ponds thriving in the vast tropical mangrove forests and coastal lands in the region.

And yet, the reason for shrimp aquaculture proliferation is that this shellfish is much in demand in the international market. It makes a lot of money.

And this is where the ever-present issue of development vs. conservation comes in. It's an issue we've tackled (or tried to) over the years, to let people know of the hazards of playing the first against the other. But it seems, in man's desire to make a life for himself, he must destroy other living things sharing the planet with him.

So, in the simplest examples of such dilemma, we find fishermen blasting away in his fishing ground to make quick catches and quick profits with which to feed his family. We see factories polluting their surroundings with their waste, and loggers cutting down trees to sell as logs to some lumber dealer for construction or other projects.

More often than not, the violator gets away with it, resulting in the continuous depletion of our forests.

The latest on this controversy has to do with forest parks in the city, a much-needed relief for smoke-choked Manilans. But what do city officials do?

They want to put in a building for teachers and turn it into a commercial area. They've been trying to do it with the Mehan Gardens, and now, they want to do the same with the Arroceros Forest Park.

It is becoming more and more evident that our city and town officials are more interested in making money than they are in providing environmental havens for the people. It seems, to their mind, what doesn't make money isn't worth considering.

So we come to that old question: How can we provide our world with the comforts and conveniences we need without sacrificing some things in it?

We've tried to seek the answer to this and the only one that fits the particular situation in our country is: Let's not be too greedy. This implies that, okay, we can cut down some trees and fish in specific waters, but let's not do it so that there won't be any more trees to cut or fish to catch tomorrow.

Or, yes, we can dig up our mountains for precious minerals because we need ore and copper or gold in order to operate our industries, but, as we dig, do we have to ruin the whole mountain or displace the tribal folk living in it?

And most of all, let's not forget that trees and plants have their place in this world, especially in cities which are getting uglier and uglier by the day because the people who should beautify them don't think it's important enough.

We don't pretend to have the answers, but it seems only reasonable to expect development to be carried out sustainably. There must be balance between production schedules and the capacity of the natural resources needed to meet the developers' requirements.

Need for balance

The reason for this is simple—there is need for balance in the ecosystems, balance in city and town planning. There must be an awareness of the cycles of the seasons, of nature itself, that allow for the sustainability of any project or industry. The conference held last September in Johannesburg, South Africa, was precisely all about sustainability.

But sustainability requires discipline, concern and knowledge of how ecosystems work. There seems to be a resistance among illegal fishers, loggers and other environmental violators to learn about the value of ecological balance. And yet, surely they must know that in most developed countries nothing else will do.

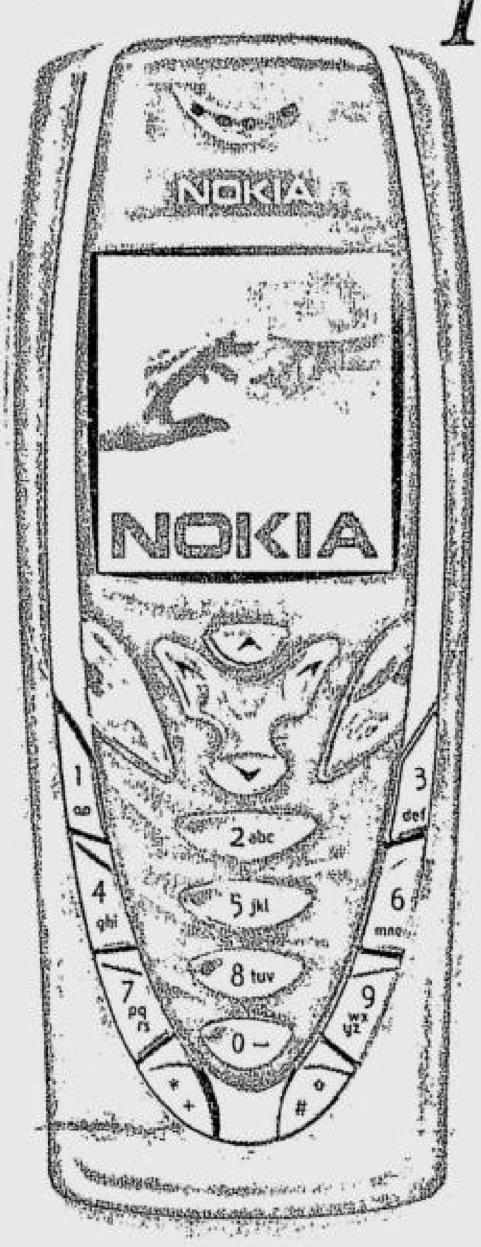
Logging, for instance, is done systematically through industrial tree plantations where trees are planted at the same time that others are cut down. If they know these facts and still do it the old unsustainable way, they must be

CAN/ G3

Me and My Nokia confessions of a certified mobile user

Top flutist taps into his

NOKIA 7210



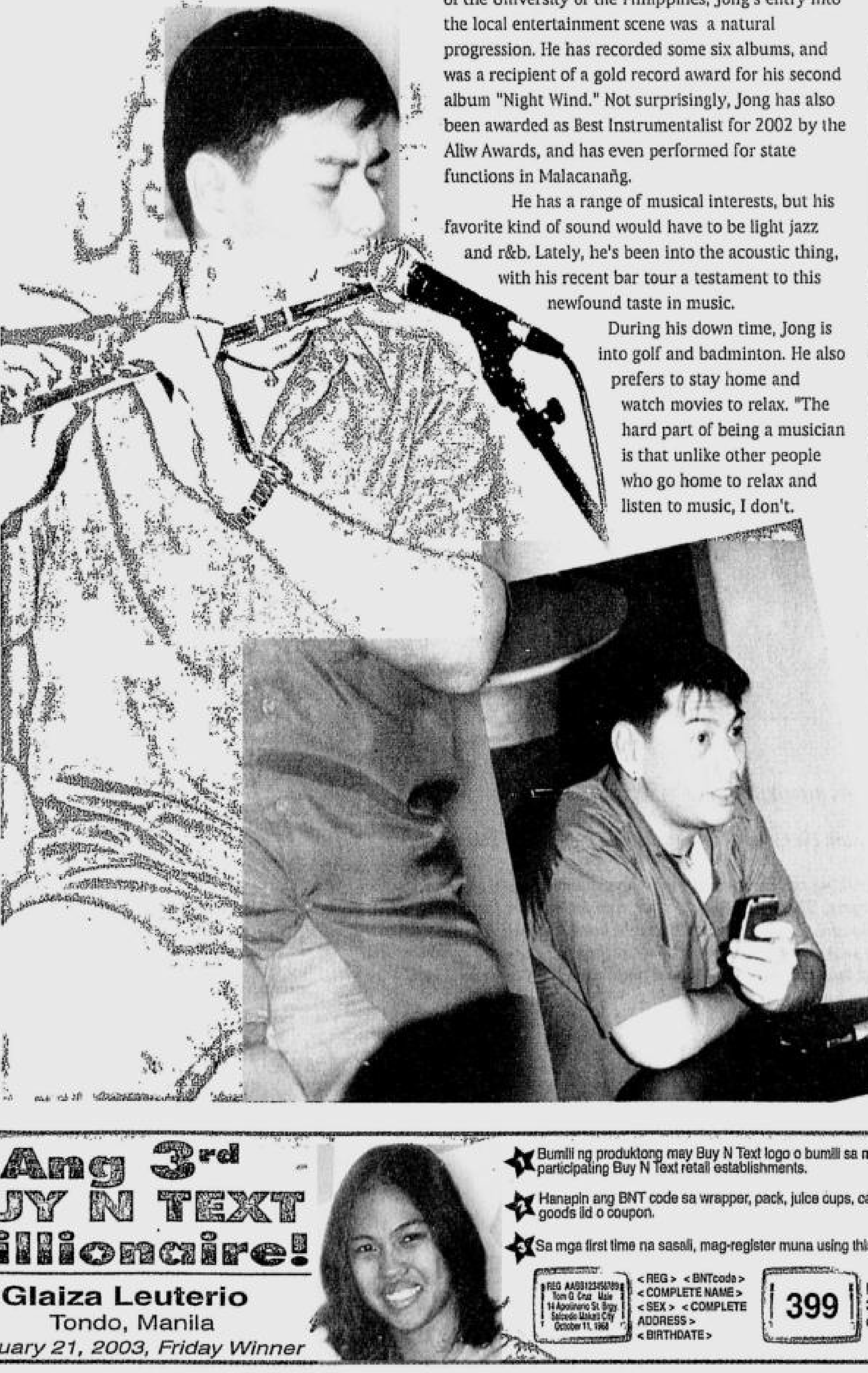
Flutist Jong Cuenco plays the flute as naturally as he breathes. No surprise really, since he came from a musically inclined family and honed his talents with formal lessons at the state university. For Jong, music is indeed his lifeblood. Apart from his regular recording gigs and concerts, he is general manager of Sound Advice, a company he set up to produce TV and radio jingles and handle corporate launches and entertainment packages.

Inspite of his day job, Jong is perhaps best known as a regular fixture on the music scene, rendering his flute-playing prowess as a solo performer, or as a perfect accompaniment to the country's top artists. Asked on how he discovered the flute, he shares, "when I was five my dad encouraged us to study the piano, so my brother and I tried it. After a few years, he told me to choose another instrument so I chose the flute. It was something out of the ordinary, it was unique."

Perfecting his skills at the College of Music of the University of the Philippines, Jong's entry into the local entertainment scene was a natural progression. He has recorded some six albums, and was a recipient of a gold record award for his second album "Night Wind." Not surprisingly, Jong has also been awarded as Best Instrumentalist for 2002 by the Aliw Awards, and has even performed for state functions in Malacanañg.

He has a range of musical interests, but his favorite kind of sound would have to be light jazz and r&b. Lately, he's been into the acoustic thing, with his recent bar tour a testament to this newfound taste in music.

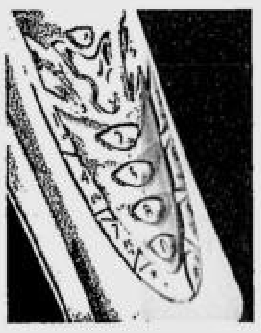
During his down time, Jong is into golf and badminton. He also prefers to stay home and watch movies to relax. "The hard part of being a musician is that unlike other people who go home to relax and listen to music, I don't. If I want to relax, I can't listen to music because it feels like I'm working. I tend to analyze it...so I watch a movie instead," he said.



This movie buff has quite a collection of film favorites. Jong is also very much a "techie" since he always tries to catch up with the latest in technology in terms of computers and cellphones.

On the 7210

"I'm really into gadgets," Jong said. "When I was young and there were no cellphones yet, I got into CD, the VHF because I'm very much into communications. Then the cellphone came, so I got my first analog phone which was so big."



Jong's most recent phone is the Nokia 7210. Asked on what he liked about it, he said "it's colored, plus you get to forward and receive MMS, which is kinda cool. I really like it. I also like the polyphonic ringing tones...for a musician that's important to me. I enjoy that particular feature of my 7210."

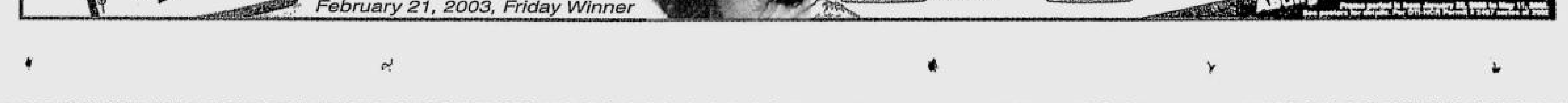
The 83gram Nokia 7210 also boasts of Java technology, which Jong frequently uses. "I get to surf and download a lot of stuff. I can access my email with this phone too," he added. Java allows one to download applications to increase a phone's functionality, or simply have access to the coolest games. Using the Nokia 7210's GPRS connection also allows the user to download games at the fastest time possible.

A balance between hi-tech features and funky functionality, the Nokia 7210 is a great partner for people like Jong who are always on the go: it has a hands-free speaker, full color display, multi-media messaging service (MMS) and integrated stereo FM radio.

Jong adds his other favorite features of the Nokia 7210: "It's quite versatile, it's fashionable. You just have to get used to the keys because the orientation is different. But after a few hours, you'll get used to it easily. Plus, it's a tri-band phone, that's very important. This one has all the frequencies, so I'm bringing it to the States for my next trip."

Truly, this gifted flutist has found the perfect communication tool to stay in touch with friends, family, fans and business associates. So, the next time you watch Jong Cuenco play, catch not only his fave flute, but also his trusty Nokia 7210 at the palm of his hands.

ADVT.



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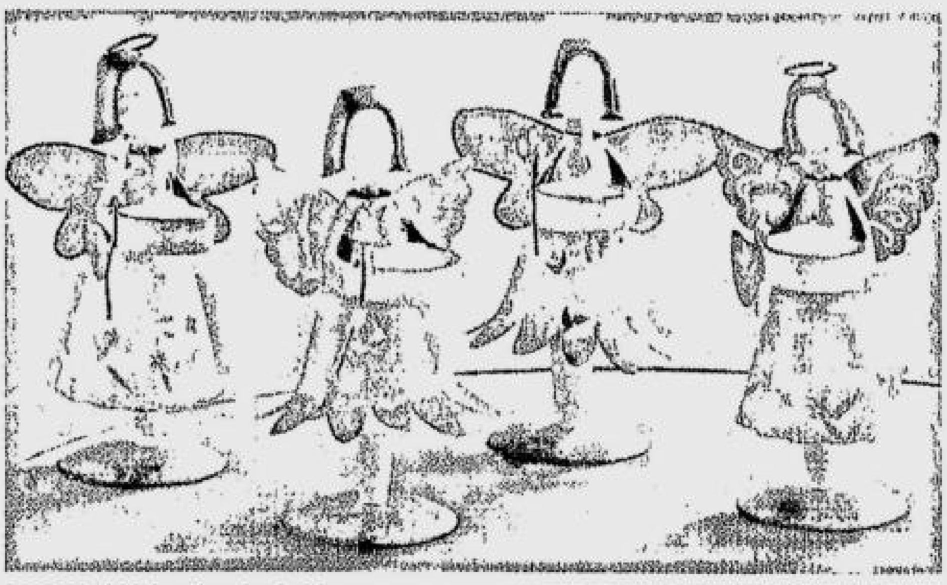
RUSS' votive holders in angel designs



RUSS' bobblehead votive holders

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Russ celebrates its 40th year with a new country collection. Bring the beauty of nature indoors with Russ' latest collection of unique home décor that combines Old World tradition with modern technology.

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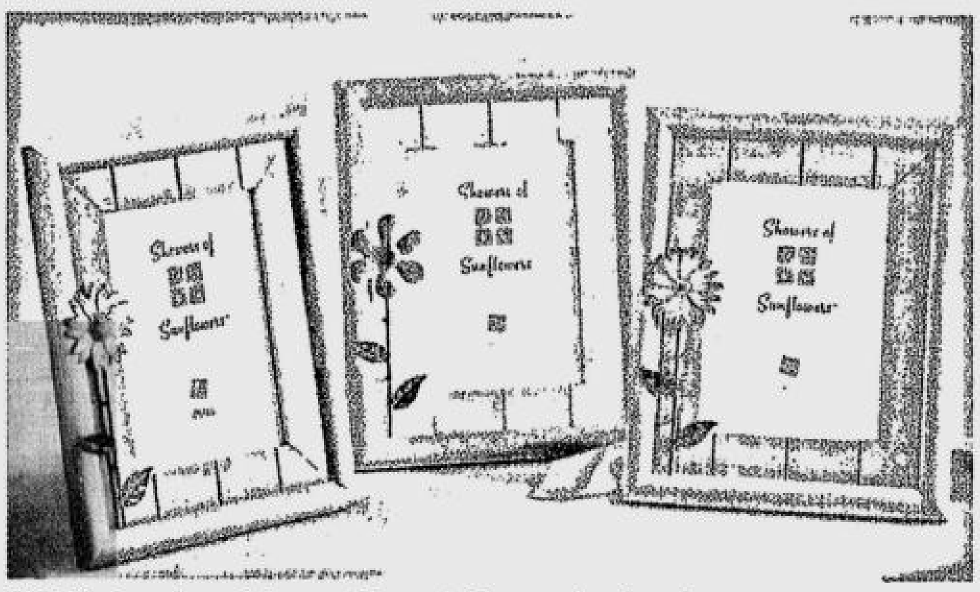


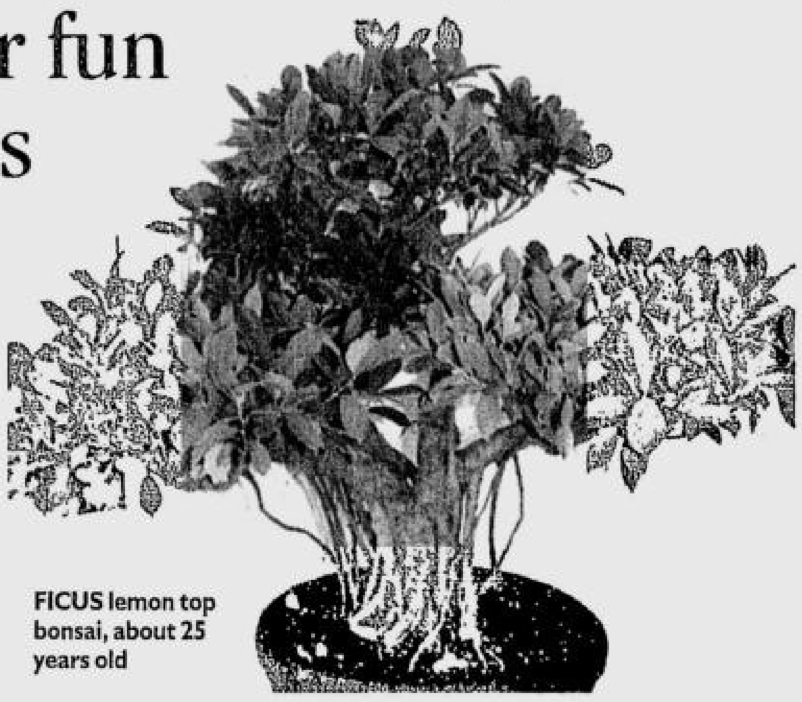
TOUCH of country and shower of flowers in Russ wooden photo frames.

Plant arts for fun and business

LEARN how to make bonsai, tray-landscape, flower arrangement, mini waterfall Zen garden and terrarium from plant art expert Serapion S. Metilla at Mett's School of Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC.

March 7-9, Bonsai Culture; March 23, Tray Landscaping and Terrarium Making; March 28-30, Mini Waterfall Zen Garden; and April 2-6, Flower Arrangement with Flower Shop Operation. All sessions will be held 1-6 p.m.

Call 939-4593.

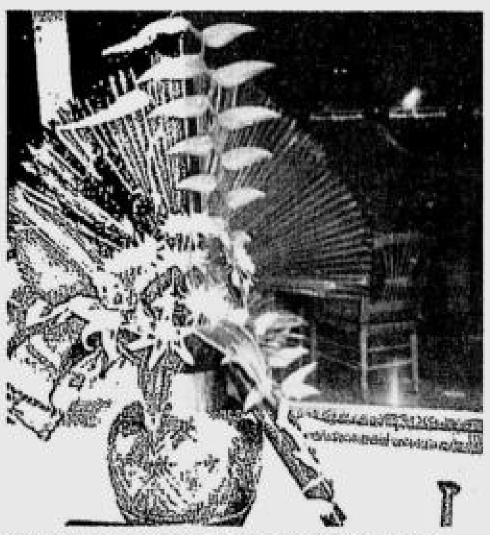


FICUS lemon top bonsai, about 25 years old

Different Ikebana styles showcased

IKEBANA International's annual floral art show on March 1-2 at Shangri-La Mall will feature classical and modern or free styles.

Participating are members of the Ikenobo, Sogetsu, Ohara and Ryusei-Ha schools. Lecture-demonstrations on the various techniques and styles will be conducted by Emy Dimayuga, Sogetsu, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., March 1; and Joyce Kato, Amrita Mankad and Rose Laurel Avancena, Ohara, 3-5 p.m., March 2. Ikenobo professor Serapion S. Metilla will show the basic, Shoka, Rikka and free styles.



OHARA style with *anahaw* leaf, heliconias, liliums and mums in a Muslim brass vase accented with a Muslim fan

Exhibit of plants you can eat

THE LOS Baños Orchid Society is giving a special award to the best ornamental edible plant and the best landscaped booth using edible ornamental plants during its garden show March 14-23.

The show will focus on edible plants that can be used in landscaping according to Dr. Jean Lasap, president of the society. Many edible plants have interesting leaf patterns to make a garden more interesting.

For every person visiting the garden show, P1 will go to the project Piso para sa Pasig.

The Los Baños Flower and Garden Show this March is dedicated to the late Belen R. Ocampo, well-loved by members of the Los Baños Orchid Society. Ocampo owned Anihan Gardens in Lipa City.

THE LATE Belen R. Ocampo in front of the variegated Mussaenda, which was named after her.

FORMER First Lady Amelita Ramos heads the Piso para sa Pasig and the Clean and Green Foundations.

Tayong Dalawa Mahal
Maligayang Araw ng mga Puso
Actual Hallmark Card Sent.

Joe D' Mango's
Love notes

WAVE 89.1

Congratulations
Toni De Luna & Judith De Luna

Biggest Valentine Card Promo 2

Wave 89.1, on its second year, brings you the LOVENOTES BIGGEST VALENTINE CARD PROMO.

Congratulations to our winners, Mr. & Mrs. Toni and Judith De Luna. This is the story behind their winning Valentine card...

Their love story began in high school. After breaking up, discovering new loves, and leading separate lives for 10 years, destiny brought them back together again. They found each other, and found love for the second time. Struggling to win the acceptance of their families, Toni and Judith fought hard for their love. He read this Valentine card to her, in front of his folks, with tears and the strength of what they felt for each other reflected in his eyes. Together, they triumphed in the end, and proved to the world that indeed, love conquers all.

The prizes:

- ***The Valentine card will be featured on the Philippine Daily Inquirer***
- ***Two (2) PHP2,600-tickets to the Boyz II Men Live in Manila Concert***
- ***3,000 GCs Urban Escape Day Spa***
- ***3,000 GCs Cheveux Salon***
- ***6,000 GCs Mossimo***
- ***GCs Outland Footwear***
- ***Two (2) Palm Zires, each worth 6,000***
- ***Overnight Stay at Discovery Suites, worth 3,000***
- ***Three-day two-night stay at Lorenzo Resorts in Boracay, complete with air fare, amounting to 24,000.***

CEBU PACIFIC palm escape DISCOVERY Suites CHEVEUX SALON outland

Orchid show opens

THE PAPHIOPEDILUM orchids, known as Lady Slippers, is among many varieties on display at the 57th Annual Show of the Philippine Orchid Society at the Quezon Memorial Circle, QC. Sponsored by the New Kamameshi Japanese Foods Restaurant, the show is at the communal hallway near the Kamameshi Japanese Foods Restaurant, East Avenue entrance. Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. formally opened the show. Lecture-demonstrations are held daily, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. until March 9.

Burdened by parasitic relatives

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My relatives often come to our home to borrow money, which they never pay, or simply ask for money. Some of them even go to my office and, when I'm not there, they would even borrow or ask money from my officemates, much to my embarrassment.

We are not rich, just simple working class. If we politely tell our relatives that we do not have spare cash, they do not believe us because we send our children to private schools and we have a car. Or they say unfair and bad things about us (*madamot*, etc.), if we do not lend them money.

Sometimes we are discouraged from building our own home (we are just renting an apartment), and are afraid to become successful for fear our relatives would come to us for more money.

Once, we helped them look for jobs but they did not keep them.

Please advise us what to do. Sometimes we think of transferring to another place so they will not bother us anymore or to just tell them we are jobless. But I'm sure they will be able to trace us because we visit our province in Laguna once a year during All Souls' Day.

We regularly give money to the poor and we feel guilty if we do not help our relatives but they are starting to irritate us.

WORRIED AND BURDENED

Expressing how you feel may have lightened the pain a bit, but you really have a problem. However, remember that for every problem there is always a solution.

Tell your officemates never to lend or give money, unless it is just for jeepney fare. Tell them to explain to your relatives that they have many obligations of their own.

Tell your relatives that sending your children to private schools cost a lot more than sending them to public schools, but the choice will better prepare them for the future. This is not, of course, to downgrade public schools, but to give you another "excuse" for refusing to lend money.

Don't move to another place. It will involve more problems. During office hours, give priority to your work to prepare for the future.

If you can afford to build your own home, go ahead. Tell your relatives you have a housing loan to pay. If they criticize you for that, just keep silent. You know that in an altercation, the one who keeps quiet is the better educated.

Remind your relatives that you helped them get jobs and they should have stayed with them so they could provide for their needs.

At the beginning of your letter, you referred to "my relatives" but later you said "our relatives." If your in-laws also bother you for loans, have your husband explain to them why it is not possible.

If they are just your relatives, you can tell them not to embarrass you before your husband. Don't tell them you are jobless because a lie can turn around to become a truth.

One solution I can suggest is to tell them you can give them P500 every month if they are really poor, but explain that this will be possible only because you will cut down on electricity, etc.

If they look at your car with envy, remind them that owning a car is a blessing. Riding a jeepney at times makes one a victim of wallet snatching. If they visit you during mealtime, share your food with them.

They look at you with envy for being blessed because they have much less than what they want. To quote a Greek philosopher: "The quest for riches darkens the sense of right and wrong."

One last advice: Offer each day to the Lord and thank Him for all your blessings.

Nurse looking for a job

I am a registered nurse having a hard time looking for a job. Can you help me apply for any available position?

MARIA ROSE CRUZ

Relatives of patients in hospitals may want to hire a private nurse. If you hope to work in the United States, I suggest you call tel. 772-0073/74. Good luck.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Can . . .

From page G1

very greedy, indeed.

Like the fishermen who choose to forget that cyanide and blast fishing are the surest ways to destroy his fishing grounds, the logger (both the illegal and legal) literally lops off his source of income every time he cuts down a tree out of season and out of place.

The most fearful stories I come across these days are not of witches or vampires or ghosts. They are of watersheds and habitats lost to some development project. They are of mangroves and coastlines that no longer serve as breeding ground for aquatic life. They are of increasingly depleted forest lands and of forest parks that are not being allowed to grow.

What happened? More often than not, we would be informed, the factories built along the river's banks drained their waste water into it, or the shops nearby threw their garbage in it, or the informal shelters there used it as toilets.

As you will note, the implications are that business and economics had something to do with that environmental degradation.

And so the question is asked: Where does development end and conservation begin (or vice versa)? In search of the answer, there may be need to continue holding conferences like that one in Johannesburg.

At the outset, there must be a good definition for development and conservation. Development is defined as "the act of building something, a gradual growth and advancement." Conservation is "preservation from waste, specifically, the protection of natural resources and the environment, especially from destruction by human activity."

As for me, it looks like the only way to prevent development from becoming destruction and for conservation from becoming irrelevant (what is there to conserve if everything is destroyed?) is at the point mandated by law—at the beginning of an enterprise or project, preferably when it is just being proposed, and before it is awarded an Environmental Certificate of Compliance (ECC) or such other documents that will allow it to start operations.

This passes the ball on to the DENR, particularly its regional officials who must see to it that compliance is met all the way.

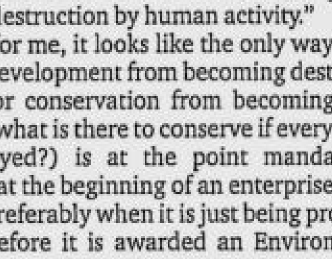
Another is crash courses for some LGUs on the importance of the environment to everyday life. Alas, this seems to be the last thing they'll think about.

This is the point, it seems, where many of the problems lie. For when things go wrong, as when a forest is mercilessly denuded, investigators are likely to find that not all the requirements for compliance were met by the developer.

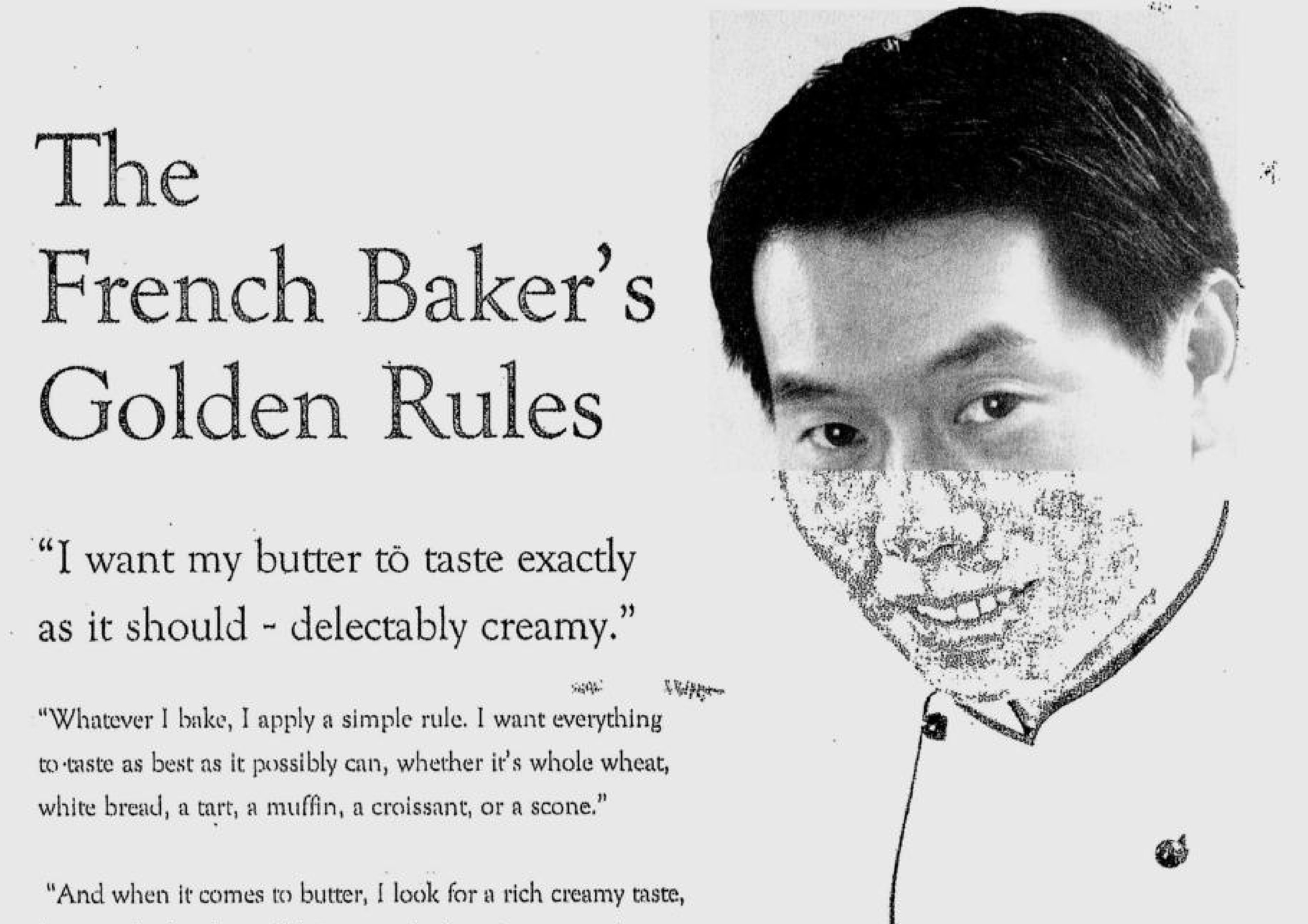
Why does this happen? The reasons are varied but underlying them all is this desire by all concerned to make hay while the sun shines, even if eventually there will be no more hay.

And then one asks: Are the developers alone to be blamed, aren't the enforcers of environmental laws also guilty? The matter of self-interest and greed somehow always come to the fore. It is a sad thing to learn, but it is there, and until the authorities in charge take up their duties with conscience, development will clash with conservation and become a big misnomer.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyd @yahoo.com



THE HOME Avenue on the second floor of the Manila Bank arcade at the Greenhills Shopping Complex will showcase furniture and furnishing in the 10th Annual National Furniture, Furnishing and Fashion Fair on March 10-30. Organizer is Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers.



The French Baker's Golden Rules

"I want my butter tö taste exactly as it should - delectably creamy."

"Whatever I bake, I apply a simple rule. I want everything to taste as best as it possibly can, whether it's whole wheat, white bread, a tart, a muffin, a croissant, or a scone."

"And when it comes to butter, I look for a rich creamy taste, because that's what will bring out the best in my creations, What is creaminess? I could give you all the technical information, but suffice it to say that I want to bite into something that gives me a pleasurable experience. And I get that from Magnolia Gold Butter."

"In my many years in the baking business, I've tried many different butters, and for me, nothing beats the creaminess of Magnolia Gold Butter. The new gold standard in butter."

Johnlu Koa
Founder and CEO, French Baker
French-baking pioneer in the Philippines

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Onion Red Bulb
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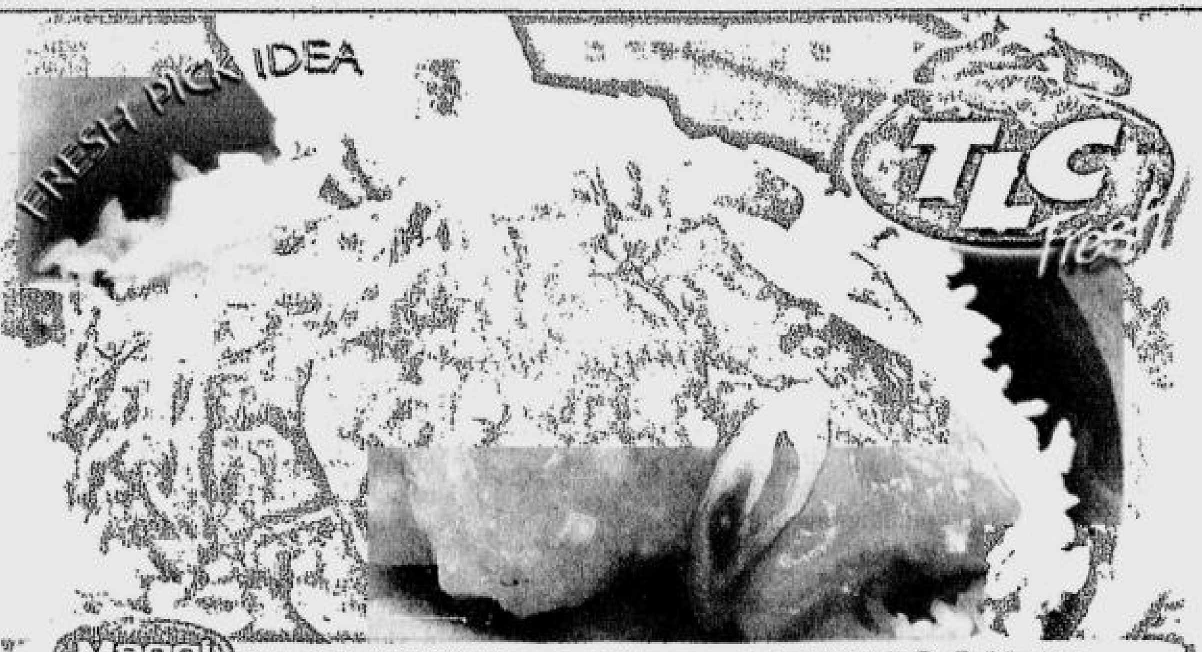

Maggi SPICY CHICKEN & FRUIT IN TOMATO SAUCE

Ingredients:

2 tbsps.	cooking oil
1/2 kg.	chicken thighs, cut into serving pieces
1/2 cup	chopped onions
1/4 cup	chopped jalapeño peppers
1 cup	pineapple juice
2 pcs.	Maggi Tomato and Meat cubes, dissolved in 1cup of water
2 tbsps.	Maggi Chili Sauce
1/2 tsp.	salt
2 cups	cubed saba banana, fried

Procedure:

Heat oil, cook chicken until brown on all sides for about 15 minutes. Remove chicken from oil. Stir in onion and jalapeño peppers and cook until limp. Pour in pineapple juice and Maggi Tomato and Meat Cubes dissolved in water, let boil, then add back chicken and simmer for 5 minutes or until chicken is tender. Add Maggi Chili Sauce and bananas, simmer for another 2 minutes. Serve hot.

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SWIFT
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Amino Collagen Shampoo
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• Chocolate
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• Sweet & Creamy
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Low Calorie Sweetener
200s
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A legend by any other name

Story on page H2

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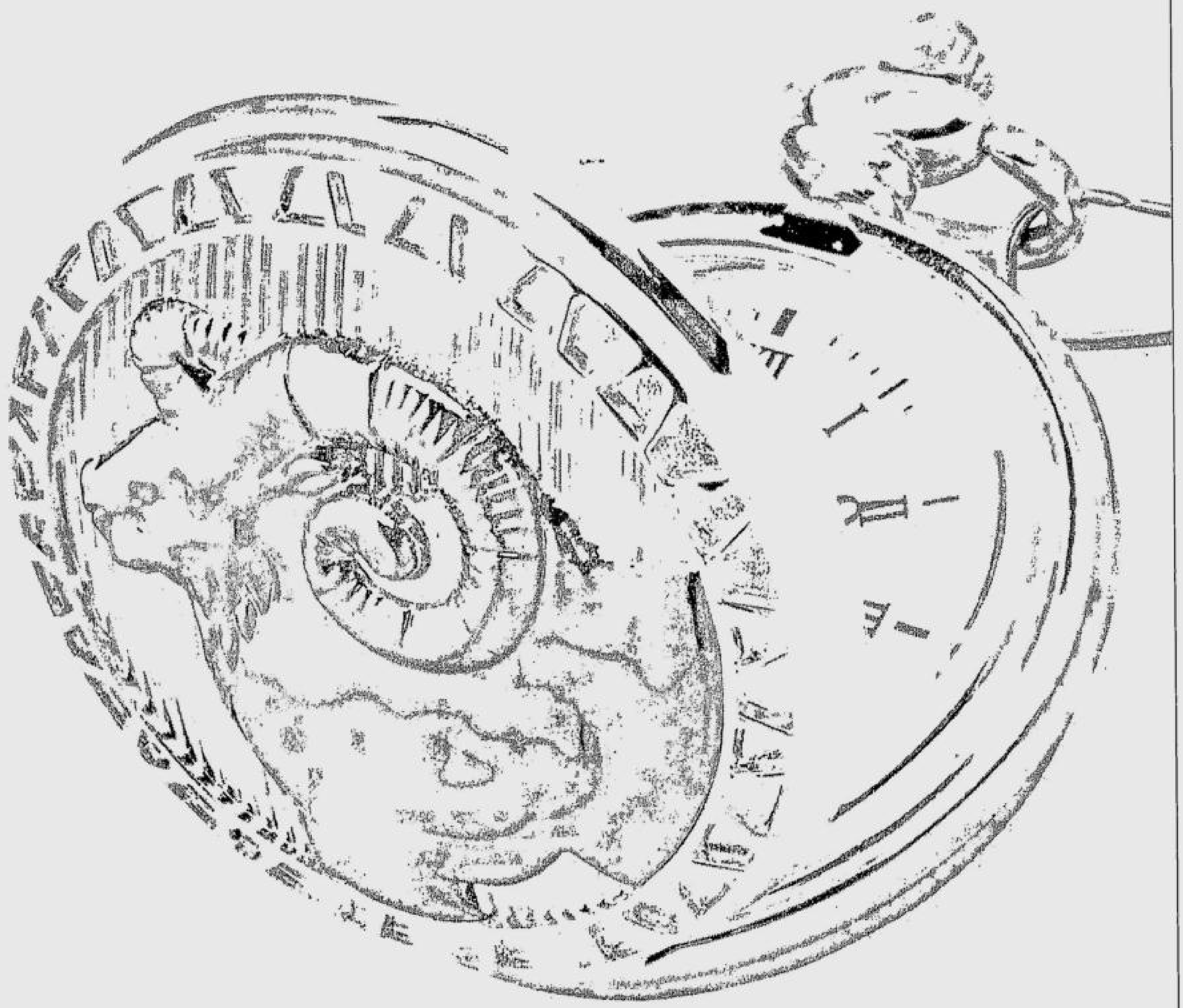

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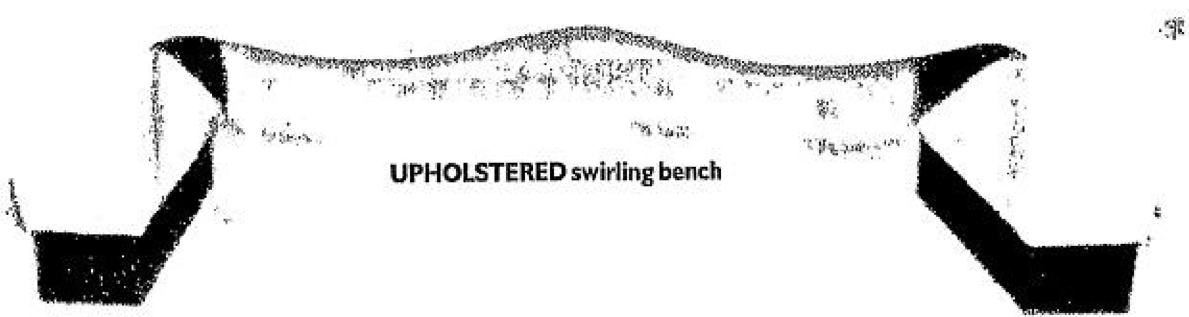
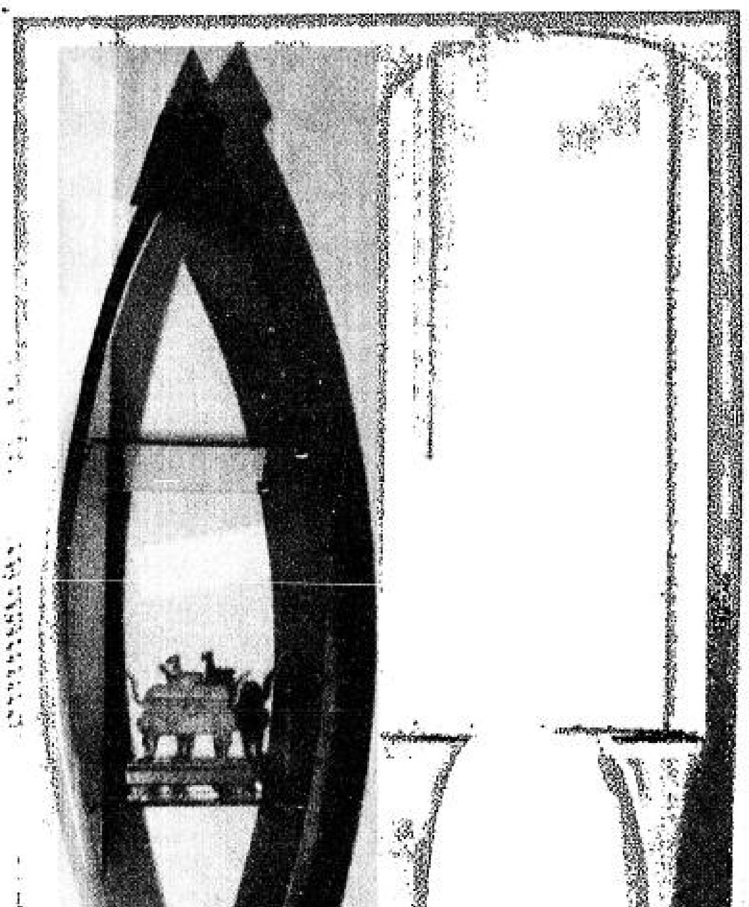


UPHOLSTERED swirling bench

A legend by any other name

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina



AN UPRIGHT wine rack-cum-étagère

DESPITE war clouds hanging in the horizon, the country's leading furniture manufacturers have remained optimistic and are staging one of the biggest furniture shows in the Philippines today at the 60-hectare Centennial Expo Pilipino in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Close to a hundred manufacturers, mostly from Luzon, are taking part in the three-day Philippine International Furniture Show (until March 1), said to be the first and biggest of its kind to be held outside of Manila and Cebu.

The first two days of the show are exclusive to buyers. Organizers will be selling admission tickets to the public on the third day.

Aside from showcasing their products in four exhibition halls with a total area of 12,400 sq m, 20 companies have each been asked to come up with their respective version of a "Lifestyle Villa."

The companies, which include Legends Lifestyle, Furniture Ville, More Than a Chair, Padua International, J.V. Woodcraft, Tropic Image and Vienna Furniture, among others, will be showcasing their respective furniture pieces to turn empty villas located near Holiday Inn Clark into contemporary living spaces.

Richard Reynante, owner and in-house designer of Legends Lifestyle, gave us an idea of what's in store for his buyers by turning his Quezon City home into a temporary showroom featuring his company's latest furniture pieces.

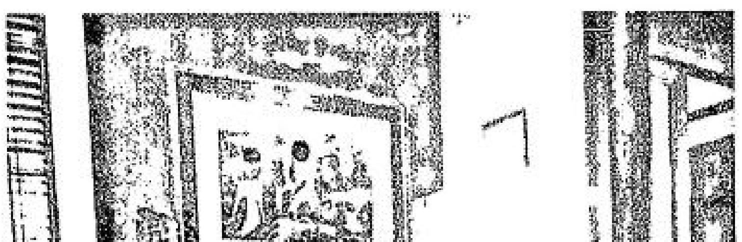
Streamlined

Oriental-inspired furniture and accent pieces were temporarily placed in the garage to make way for new, more streamlined pieces made of high-grade leather, laminated wood panels and hardwood. A semi-outdoor conversation piece Reynante calls the Chaplin is made primarily of dried sea grass woven on a steel frame. Renowned Filipino furniture designer Val Padilla also designs for the company.

"This arrangement is only good for several hours," he said with a chuckle. "After the interview and photo session, we will be transporting each piece to Clark."

How Reynante started in the furniture business is a story in itself. What began as a hobby

GLASS-TOPPED dining table mounted on a massive, swirling wooden base



LIVING room showcase made of laminated bamboo with cushioned seats

three years ago has now bloss
ing business, complete with a
City and a showroom on Pasay
will be Legends Lifestyle's first
ternational furniture show.

"Everyone is feeling the
the impending war in Iraq.
"We have no choice but to h
we promote our respective
rest of the world."

Around 800 buyers, most
States, Europe and the Midd
firmed their attendance less t
the show's opening. The US
try's biggest market for high-e

Reynante, a business gradu
ty of the Philippines, had n
would one day go into the de
ture of furniture. His exposu
began several years ago d
abroad. He dreamed of furn
be-built house with similar
pieces were either unavailabl
or were too expensive to imp

"I ended up designing a
my own furniture," he sa
friends started ordering fr
noticed the pieces in my h
serious venture when my pa
ed to open a showroom in M

Global

Going global, Reynante adu
to go despite the risks of expo
foreign copycats. He and his t
dustry are confident that the
ways remain a primary sour
bor-intensive furniture pieces

"We just have to market
fast as we can before other
copy them," said Reynante
introduce certain technical
labor-intensive designs
petitors will find hard

The Chaplin, for i
single piece support
lar steel frame that n
tions as the base
topped table, but als
form a circular ben
Reynante derived h
from an earlier desig
smaller glass-topped coff
tured in the living room.

A stained armoire and
rack-cum-étagère in the liv
also testaments to the high
rials and painstaking proce
every piece. Despite the sta
natural grains of wood are s

Apart from the attention
ery detail, the pieces also
combination of materials an

LEATHER-AND-WOOD sofa

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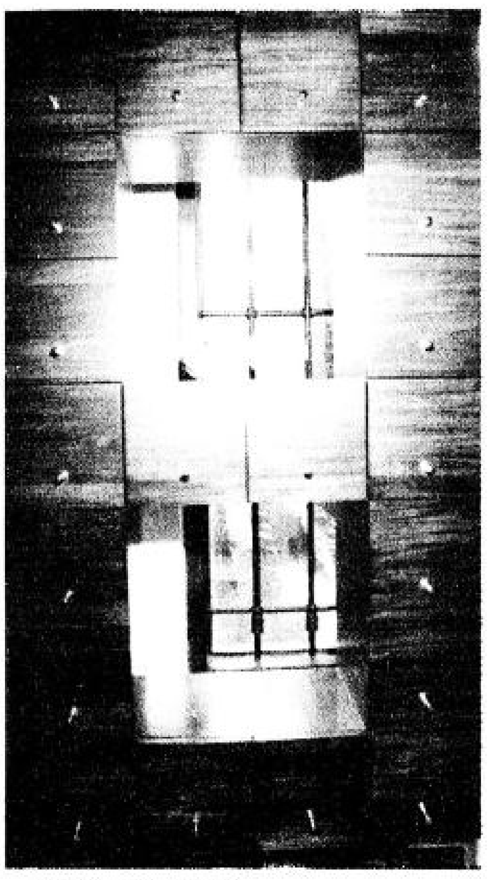
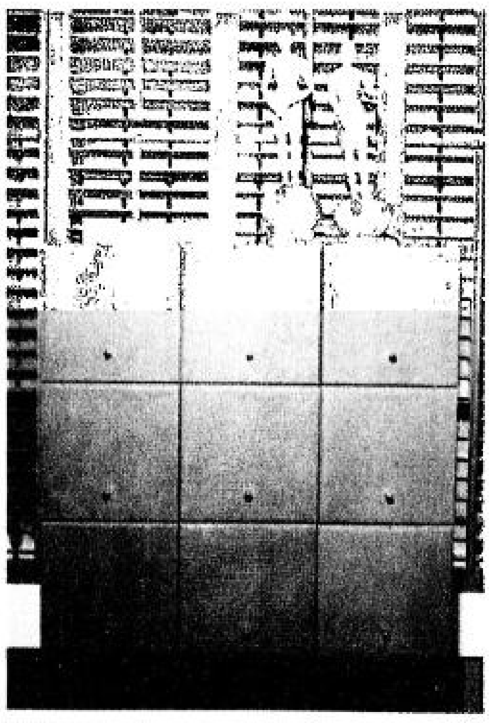
LEGENDS Lifestyle living room showcase featuring a glass-topped swirl table, leather-and-wood armchair and boa sidetable

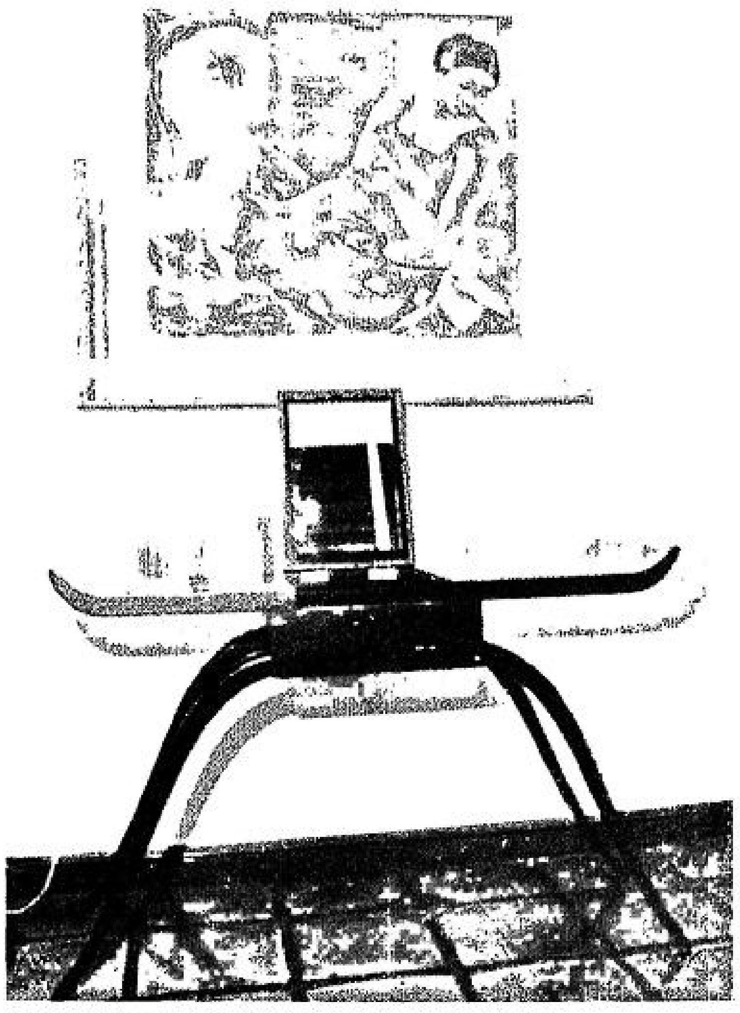
Legends Lifestyle leads the Philippine International Furniture Show in Clark Field, laying Filipino claim to international design pre-eminence



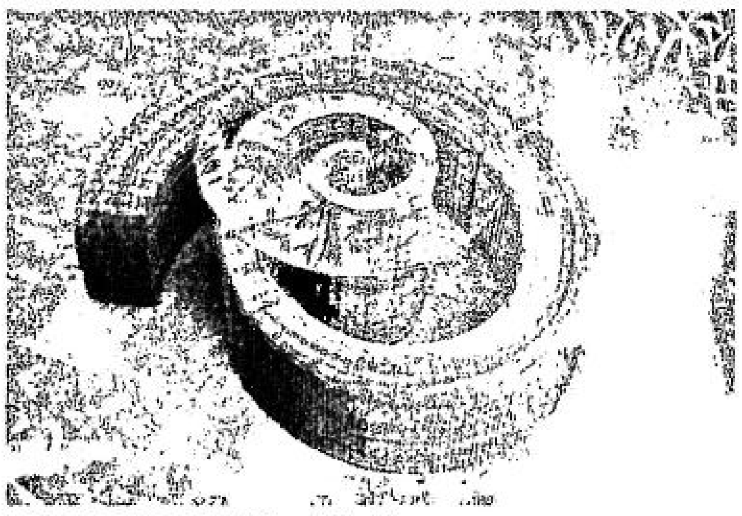
STAINED wooden drawers



DRAWERS made of wood and cowhide made to look like snakeskin



WOODEN, leather-topped dresser with curved legs



THE GLASS-TOPPED "Chaplin" table

omed into a thriv-
factory in Quezon
Road in Makati. It
time to join an in-

itters because of
". Reynante said.
pe for the best as
products to the

from the United
le East, have con-
han a week before
emains the coun-
nd furniture.
ate of the Universi-
o inkling that he
ign and manufac-
: to fine furniture
uring his travels
shing his soon-to-
pieces. Alas, such
in the Philippines
t back then.
d manufacturing
d. "Before long
n me after they
use. It became a
rtner and I decid-
kati a year ago."

ed, is the only way
sing his designs to
lleagues in the in-
Philippines will al-
e of high-end, la-
n the region.
our products as
get a chance to
"It also helps to
innovations and
hat foreign com-
to copy."
stance, is a
l by a circu-
or only func-
of a glass-
extends to
h-like chair.
inspiration
he did, a
e table fea-

pright wine
g room are
grade mate-
that go into
ned effect, the
ill evident.
hat went into ev-
display a clever
patterns. This is evident in the Castro chest and the Munroe table, both of which are made of dark hardwood and cowhide processed to look like snakeskin and crocodile skin, respectively. The Moorish-inspired chair comes with a framed backrest fashioned from solid wood covered with various swatches of leather sourced from all over the world.

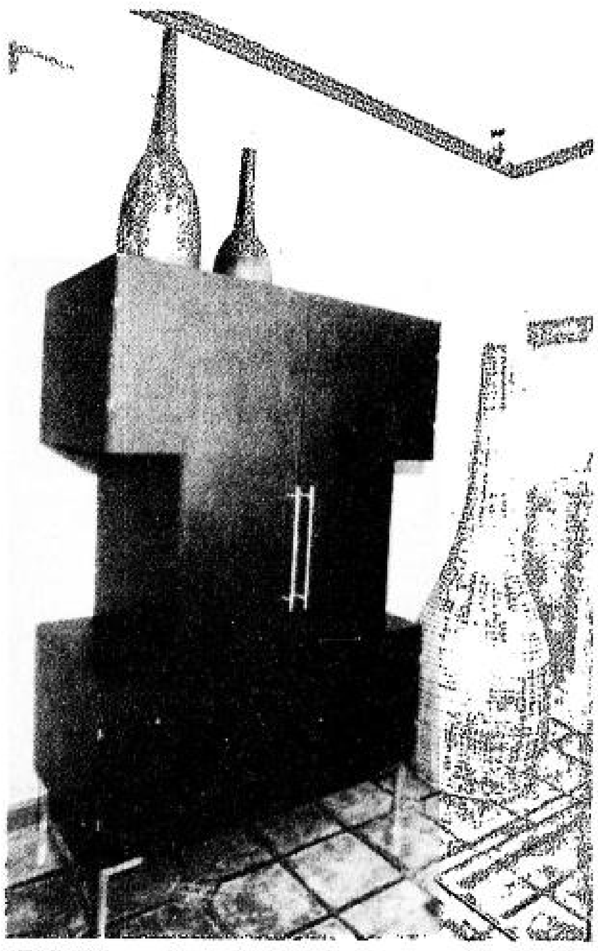
"You can have a similar one made," said Reynante of his Moorish-inspired chair. "But no two chairs will be alike unless the buyer insists on the same combination of leather swatches."

Reynante may have encountered a dearth of good furniture pieces several years ago. No longer. "Conditions have drastically improved within the last few years," he said. "I'm sure potential buyers won't go home disappointed."

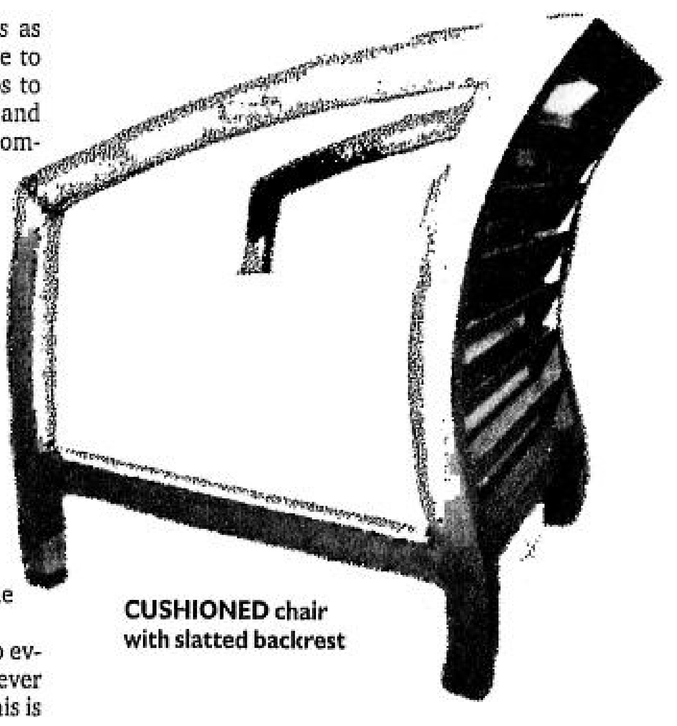
War or no war, the country's top furniture manufacturers are putting their best foot forward as they display the full range of their newest and best products today and over the weekend.

For inquiries, call the Philippine International Furniture Show 2003 at tel. 632-9007 and 631-2834.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



STAINED armoire and a bottle-shaped lamp made of sea grass, rope and strips of acrylic



CUSHIONED chair with slatted backrest

urnitur

MARQUETRY wooden side table and console with wrought iron legs

ISMAEL rattan counter stool with wrought iron arms, legs

YOLANDA tub armchair

elements
of style

MABUHAY coffee table with 2 matching stools

MABUHAY single seater with ottoman

ROMANO 3 and 5-layer reed drawers with glass tops

MABUHAY 2-seater rattan sofa with cushion and head rest

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STAA members and project working committee members

Theresians' concert at AFP theater

"THERESIANS in Concert 2003" at 7:30 p.m., Mar. 8, AFP Teatro Aguinaldo, Quezon City, will be the culminating activity in the series of musical presentations organized by St. Theresa's College Alumnae Association, QC (STAA, QC). The series aimed to showcase all the talented artists STC has produced in the past 50 years.

GOINGS ON

POST VALENTINE CONCERT. Hublag Jamindanganon presents "Close Encounter," a post-Valentine party of Jamindanganons 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Filinvest 1 Subdivision Clubhouse, Commonwealth Avenue, QC. Call 427-8497 or 0918-9408024.

LAUNCH. Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) will launch Youth Build (YB) on Mar. 2 at the Marikina Riverbank Amphitheater in Marikina City. This year's theme is "Facing Future Challenges." HFHP is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI).

WOMEN'S DAY. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) Philippine Committee and Zonta Foundation Philippines will celebrate International Women's Day on Mar. 7 at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City. "A Tribute to Woman–A Celebration of Woman in Music" featuring two sopranos from the UP College of Music will highlight the day's event. Call 810-6703.

CONCERT. South Border will hold a special concert for members of the PriceSmart Membership Shopping at the Ortigas Extension warehouse carpark at 4 p.m. tomorrow. Open to the public, the concert, co-sponsored by Dimsum 'N Dumplings, will launch a month-long outdoor PriceSmart *tiangge* at the Ortigas warehouse carpark.

EXHIBIT. Mana Casa de Artes y Antigos, art and antique dealer and collector, is participating in the 10th Annual National Furniture, Furnishing and Fashion Fair Mar. 7-30 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex. Call 802-3862, 826-8162, 826-6732, 829-3165 or 820-3863.

PROGRAM. The Japan Foundation Manila Office will administer the competitive/qualifying examination and interview for "The 2003 Study Tour Awards for Outstanding Students of the Japanese Language," 8:30 a.m., Mar. 8. The grantee will go on a two-week study tour hosted by the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Kansai.
Deadline for submission of duly accomplished registration form is Mar. 5. Call the Japan Foundation Manila Office, 12/F Pacific Star Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City (tel. 811-6155 to 58 and fax 811-6153.).

SALE. Maldita is giving a 40-percent discount on all regular items and up to 80 percent less on sale items until Mar. 15. The store has branches at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Fairview, SM Sucat, SM Southmall, SM Manila, SM San Fernando, Pampanga, SM City Cebu, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Novaliches, Robinsons Metro East, Pasig City; Robinson's Imus, Cavite; Festival Mall Alabang, Grand Pavillion Mall, Biñan; Designer Depot, Quirino Avenue, Manila; and The Outlet Yard.

ANNUAL FAIR. Sta.Lucia East Department Store holds its annual Baby Fair Mar. 1-30. Big discounts on baby products are given. A baby photo contest offers a total of P25,000 worth of cash and gift certificates. Call 681-5101/93 local 138.

WORKSHOP. The Iyas Creative Writing Workshop is now accepting applicants for this year's workshop, Apr. 20-26, at Balay Kalinungan, University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City. Fifteen fellowships will be awarded. Deadline for application is Mar. 31. Send applications to Dr. Gloria Fuentes, College of Arts and Sciences, University of St. La Salle, La Salle Avenue, Bacolod City 6100 or, call (034) 434-0415.

SALE. Sta.Lucia East Grand Mall holds a one-day midnight sale on Mar. 14. Get up to 50-percent discounts, 10 a.m.-12 midnight, at choice stores and boutiques, specialty shops, food outlets, department store, Home Gallery, Planet Toys, SLE Essentials and supermarkets. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall is located at Marcos Highway corner Felix Avenue, Cainta, Rizal.

PROGRAM. The Asean Ladies Circle launched recently the ALC Smiling Bossing project on waste management and its mascot at the Makati Park and Garden, in cooperation with the city government of Makati led by Mayor Jejomar Binay. Call 816-4245 , 812-7566 and [0916] 569-5543.

BOOKFAIR. The 7th Academic Bookfair will be held 9 a.m.-7 p.m., July 14-18, at the University of the Philippines Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, QC. Call 925-4572.

SALE $3.00
SALE $1.50
SALE $15.00
SALE $5.70
SALE $5.75
SALE $1.00
SALE 20% off
SALE $10.20
SALE $13.20
SALE $0.69
SALE $0.79
SALE $5.90
SALE $5.80
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SALE $6.50
SALE $9.00
SALE $8.90
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Trend Spotting LIFESTYLE

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War? 'Wa ko feel'

Or how, in a world threatened with violence, we're trying to make an honest living by caring for the old and unwanted

IN A WORLD that's being dragged into war, where exactly are we? Trying to make a living and trying to get a life.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

The war is an idea that we find difficult to "buy" despite almost round-the-clock coverage by CNN and BBC, the eruditeness and passion of a Tony Blair, and the earnestness and credibility of a Colin Powell. Still we're in no mood to feel war. "Wa ko feel war," in gayspeak.

The Filipino is trying to welcome the GI's with one hand and shooing them away with the other. It's the classic schizophrenia—the slave/freedom fighter complex that's almost been imprinted on our DNA through the centuries.

But in the micro level, however, the Filipino at this point in history is really just trying to move on and earn a decent living, wherever and whatever. His life is no longer dependent on the Americans or even the government. Like one who's been let down by a lover much too often, he now wants to move on and fend for himself. The Filipino has turned into a service-provider to the world because that's how he can best earn his keep, it seems.

Just look at the signage in and out of Metro Manila—there's always one announcing a training center/workshop for caregivers. Almost every province and city has one. More and more Filipinos, whatever their professional training, are finding work as caregivers abroad.

Sought-after Pinoys

In Madrid last December, Philippine Ambassador to Spain Lani Bernardo and his wife Conchitina told us how caregivers made up the bulk of the Filipino population in Spain, and the demand for Filipino caregivers was great. "They're sought after, if not loved," Conchitina said of the Filipino caregivers in Spain. Many of the Filipinos in Spain, we learned, were professionals.

WAR/14

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Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa
March 15, Saturday 4PM
Central Atrium
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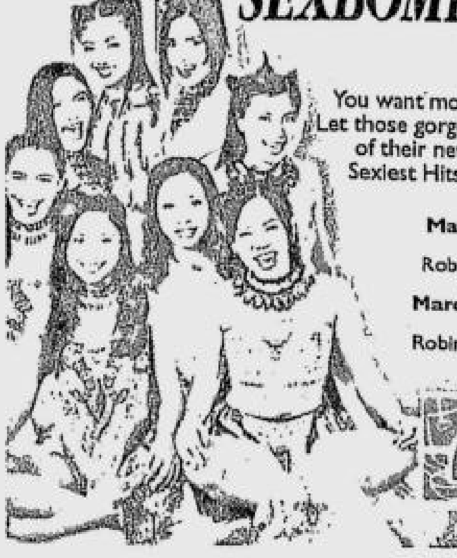

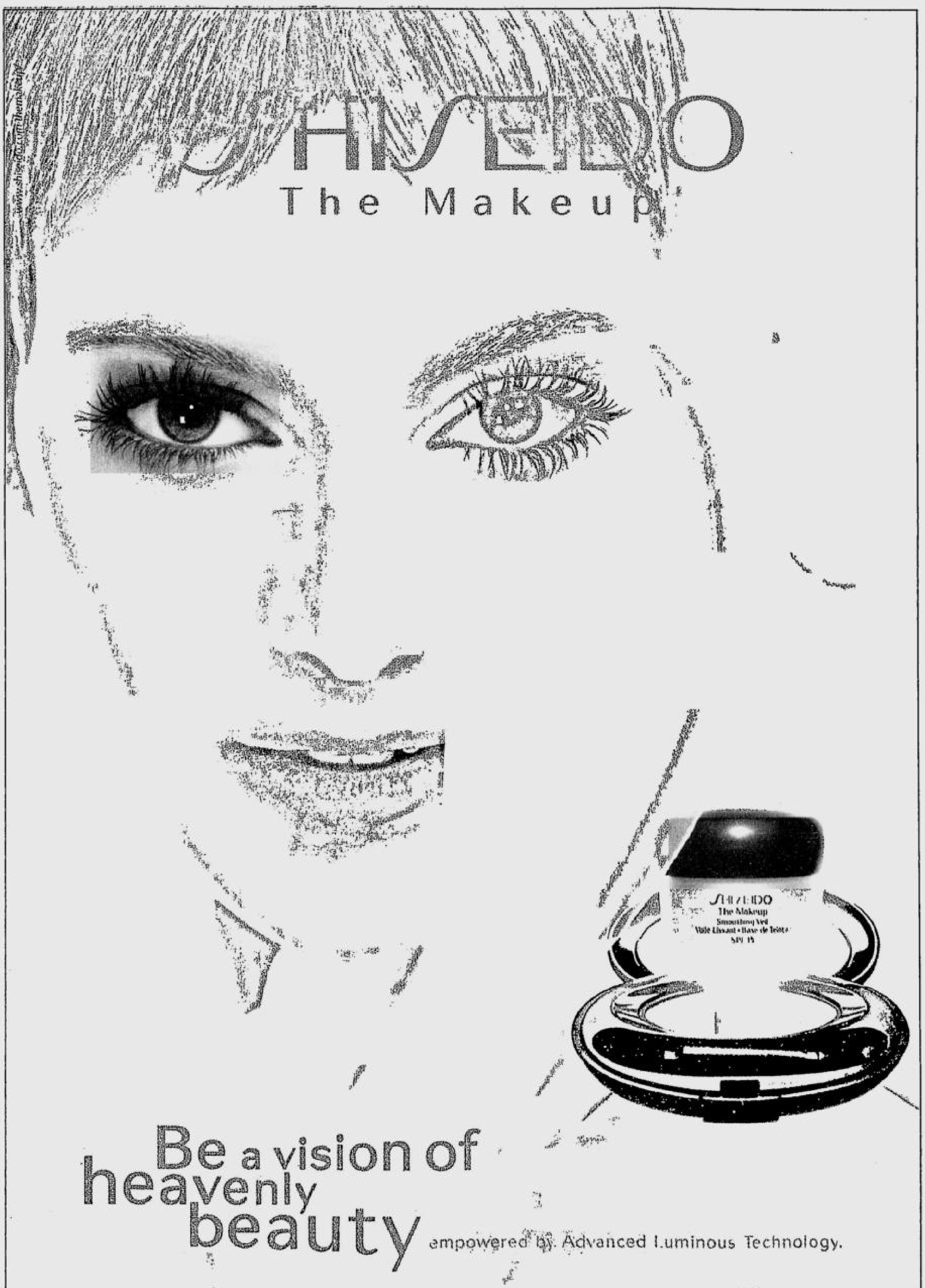
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Consultations may be booked for a minimum advance purchase of P3,000 from 2003 Spring/Summer Make-up Collection, Limited slots available, so schedule your appointment now! Consultations available at Shiseido Glorietta, Power Plant, SM Megamall, Watson's The Podium only. Offer valid from March 1-22, 2003.

Ms. Miho Saito, Japanese Beauty Expert

The Shiseido 2003 Spring/Summer Make-up Collection is available at Shiseido Beauty Institute Glorietta 4, Shiseido Beauty Institute Power Plant Mall, SM North EDSA, SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM Harrison Plaza, Watson's The Podium and The Landmark.

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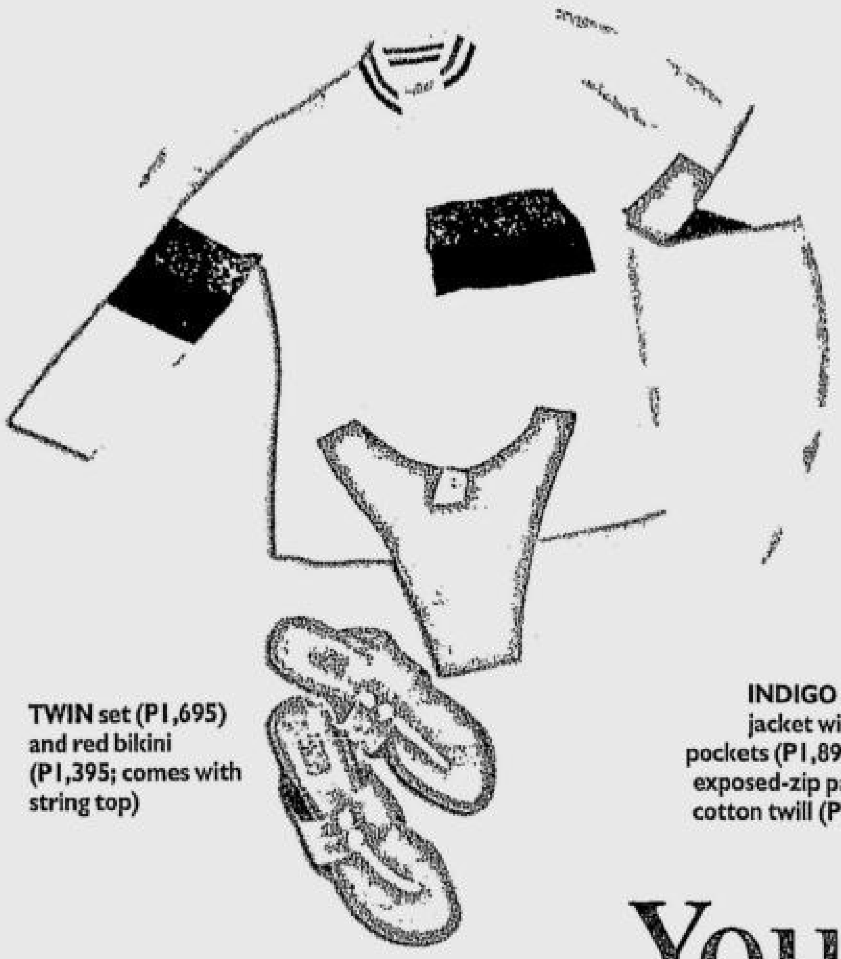
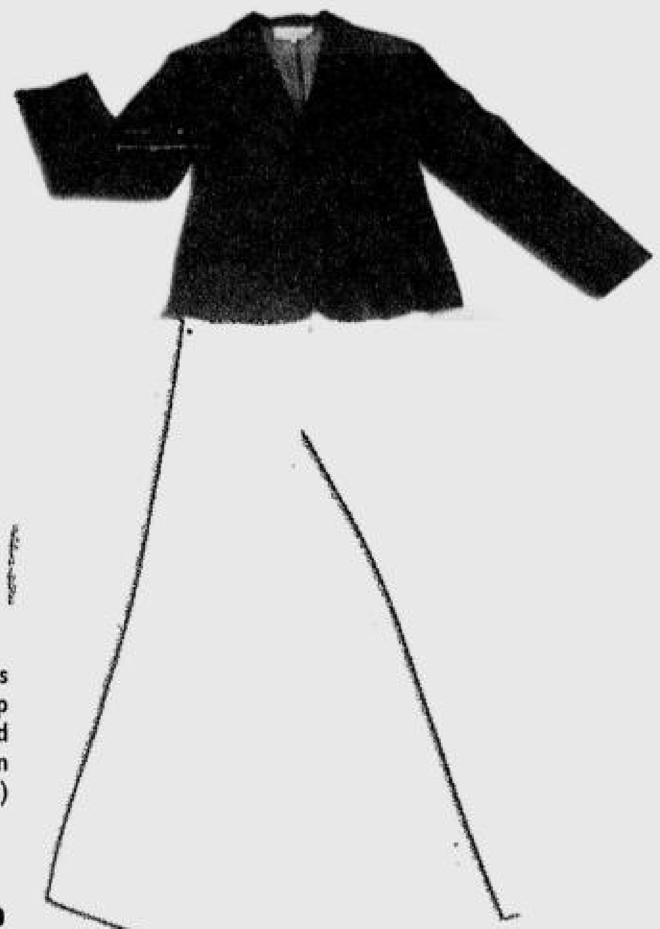


TWIN set (P1,695) and red bikini (P1,395; comes with string top)



INDIGO sports jacket with flap pockets (P1,895) and exposed-zip pants in cotton twill (P1,195)

RED cotton cardigan (P1,295), black string top (P1,395; comes with bikini) and denim wide-cuffed capris (P1,195)

SLEEVELI
mock-T to
(P895) an
indigo
asymmetr
skirt (P89

Your wardrobe to and fro

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Erik Arazas

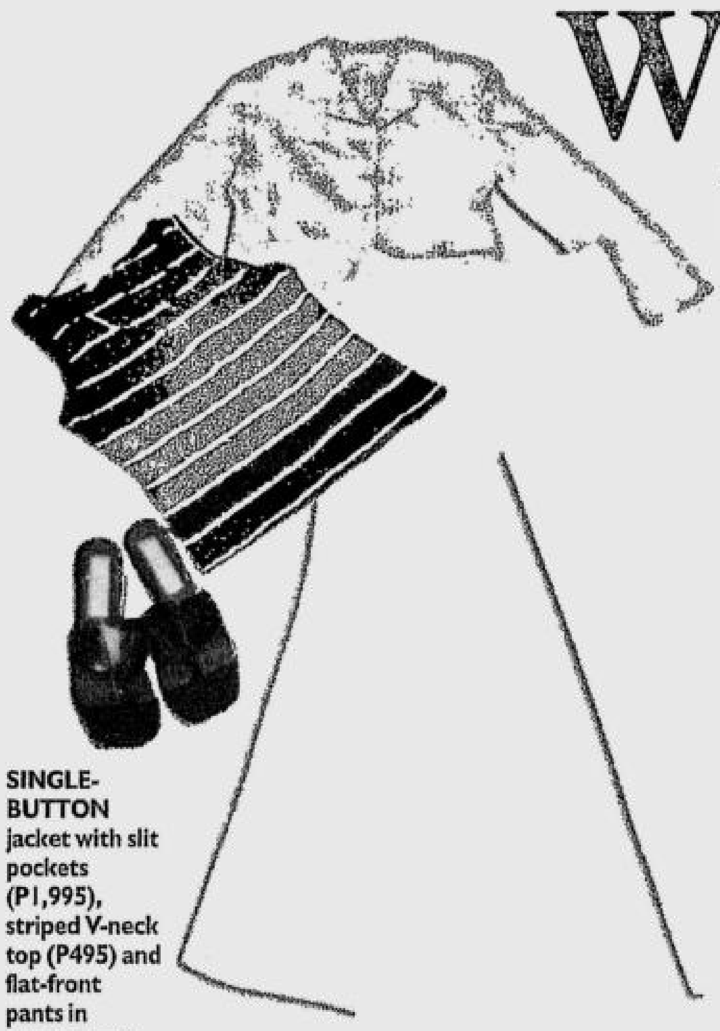
DO you sometimes panic when you're faced with a closetful of clothes and yet can't find anything to wear? Fret not—you're not alone. The dilemma is not unheard of among working women.

You can look fabulous every day without overstuffing your closet. You only need to make a few changes in your shopping habits.

Build a wardrobe you can work on. Begin with basic pieces—pants, blazers, skirts—in white to midtone to dark neutral colors and work your way up.

You'll get more wear out of a black blazer than, say, one with bold, multihued prints bought on a whim. You can spice up these neutrals with tops and accessories in bright and luscious hues. It's all a matter of creative imagination.

Check out Viseversa boutique for clothes to build your wardrobe on.



SINGLE-BUTTON jacket with slit pockets (P1,995), striped V-neck top (P495) and flat-front pants in stretch twill (P995)

STRETCH cotton long-sleeved shirt with garter detail (P1,295) and indigo flat-front pants (P1,495)

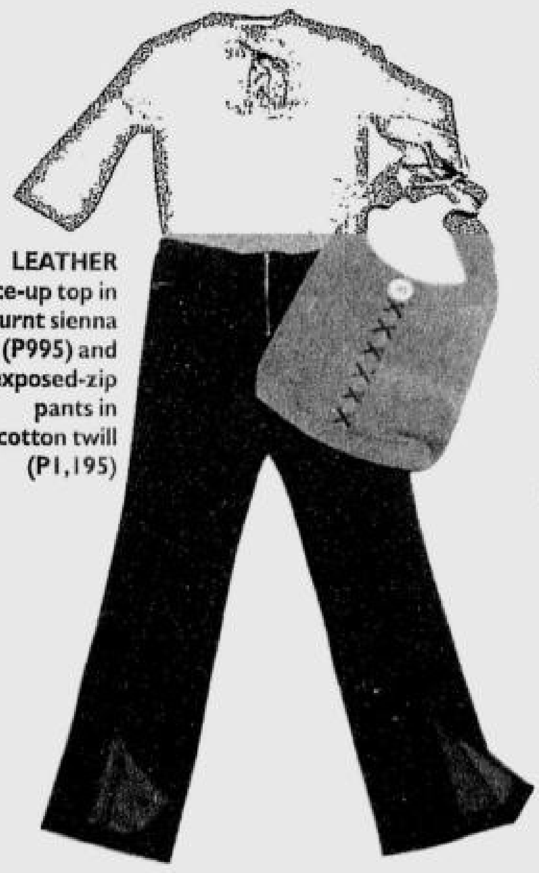
COTTON floral overlap top with asymmetric hem (P695) and cotton capri pants (P795)

THREE-QUARTER-SLEEVED shirt in mango with black grosgrain ribbon (P995) and black Lycra French top and briefs (P1,395)

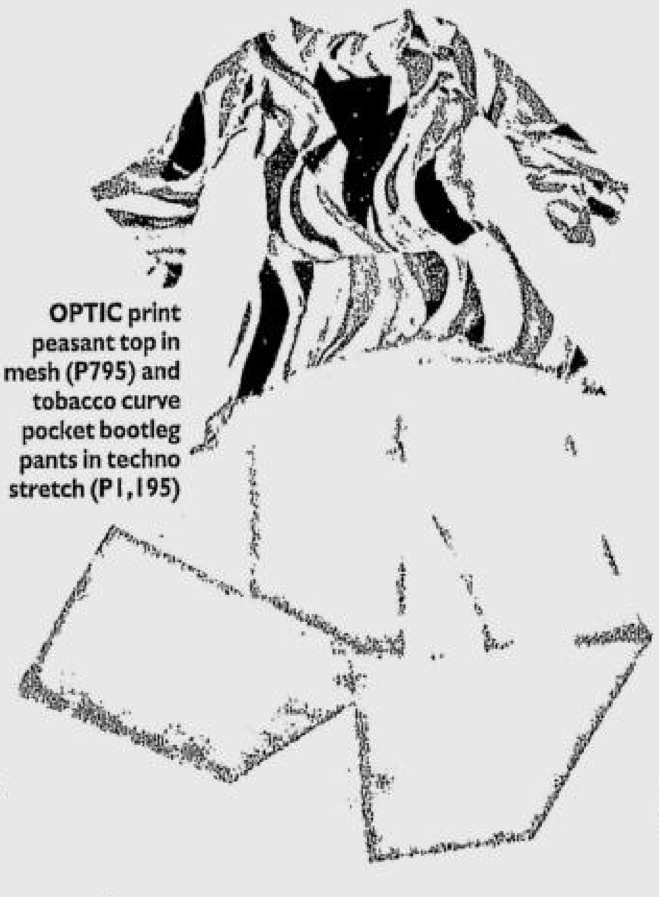
VISEVERSA BOUTIQUES
ARE LOCATED
AT SM MEGAMALL, RUSTAN'S
TOWER, RUSTAN'S MAKATI,
RUSTAN'S ALABANG TOWN
CENTER, RUSTAN'S HARRISON
PLAZA AND RUSTAN'S CUBAO

WHITE anorak (P1,395) and black string top and bikini (P1,395)

OPTIC-PRINT cutaway mesh top (P595) and black bootleg stretch pants (P1,195)



LEATHER lace-up top in burnt sienna (P995) and exposed-zip pants in cotton twill (P1,195)



OPTIC print peasant top in mesh (P795) and tobacco curve pocket bootleg pants in techno stretch (P1,195)

EMPIRE-CUT top in wine with lace detail (P695) and cotton stretch pants (P1,195)

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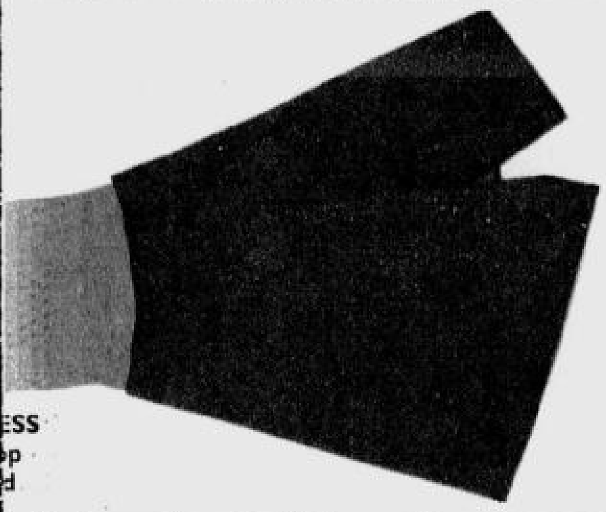

"Get Sporty" sports the nautical theme. It includes five sets of clothes in whites, blues, reds and blacks that you can mix and match whatever the mood or the occasion, from a demanding day at work to a relaxing weekend on the beach.

Add more sparkle to those pieces with "Yellow Fever," a line consisting of warm, golden hues, stripes and floral prints.

To allow bolder tones and prints into your closet, try "Street Beat" with its bootleg pants in tobacco and hot tops in rich burgundy and burnt sienna. You may even try the quirky optic prints.

Your core wardrobe can be utilitarian and exciting at the same time. Even the ubiquitous pair of pants can have trendy details like Viseversa's exposed zips, cuffed and slit hems.

Keep your eyes open. Know what's hot out there, but never get carried away. Remember, some fads lose their novelty faster than getting your next paycheck. When all else fails, you always have your basics to count on.

Viseversa shows working women how to build a wardrobe of practical clothes without dampening the excitement

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Ito'y talagang absorbent. At cool and comfortable si Frankie dahil sa high-cut leg design nito. Practical na ang presyo, makakasiguro pa si Sharon sa quality. Mula sa Huggies.

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War? 'Wa ko feel'

From page I1

Interestingly, giving care has become the Filipino's forte in an era when the rest of the world is too busy making money to care, especially about their old folks. What he lacks in cold efficiency and systems (trains don't run on time, to use a metaphor), he makes up for with that big heart and the gracious smile that have always been the Filipino's assets (that's why we've been had much too often).

But our sensibilities are akin to the West's, which is why we have an edge in another area—call centers. As we learned from a corporate executive-turned-bureaucrat, we're a favorite base for call centers, alongside India. We speak English, understand American idiom, understand and even act out Western nuances in behavior. A lot of fresh grads from exclusive schools are landing call center jobs, with salaries starting at P20,000 a month.

We have the skills and the services the world can buy, and we have the soul and the heart that the world is willing to pay for at this point, while the Chinese hog the cash-awashed big manufacturing deals. A generation of various races across the world is being reared by the Filipino overseas professional, and the aging populations, again of various nations, are being cared for in their twilight years by the Filipino.

Not a bad way to earn honest money in a world that's on the brink of war.

And just how are we trying to get a life? Interestingly and ingeniously.

Torrid kissing scene

I'll remember last Saturday as the night the INQUIRER ed in chief, "Mrs. M," accidentally walked up to a gay couple torridly kissing and embracing each other. She gasped, "Oh my God!" But that's getting ahead of the story.

We decided to check out the new resto that has been getting good reviews lately—Mamma on J. Nakpil in Malate. Like every resto/bistro/bar in that neighborhood, Mamma is Malate-chic and cool. Its packaging is perfect: neat minimalism with touches of deviant individuality, elegant but not stiff—and there's the de rigueur picture window that gave a view of the street scene below.

Even months before it opened, Colin Mackay (of Sala fame) had been telling us that his new place would have Italian food like no other, like what an Italian mom would cook. Last Saturday night we found out he wasn't way off the mark.

Mamma's menu is brief—shorter than a page. That's rare in Metro Manila's resto scene, where menu selections could be encyclopedic that the night would be halfway over even before you could make up your mind. There are only six appetizers and four main courses to choose from. That decisive.

We went for chicken liver, pancetta and balsamic vinegar salad for starter, and portabella mushroom and thyme ravioli with white truffle oil as main course. We're going back this week to have those again; that's how much we loved them. The ravioli was just right, not satiating the way rich pasta usually is. The liver, for me, was done so evenly, a good balance of tenderness and flavor.

A hit at Mamma is the almond tart dessert, with fresh strawberries. Had that and loved the crust, even the balsamic strawberries, and we're not usually strawberry lovers.

IN MADRID, Philippine Ambassador Lani Bernardo, his wife Conchitina (far left), daughter Lia and Manila Bulletin's Ethel Timbol

Malate lifestyle

A good boost to our food was the scene unfolding just below us, down on the street. As the night wore on, "Malate" the lifestyle was taking shape right before our eyes—the street was filling up with people, mostly guys and "papa-bles," flowing in and out of the restos/bars. The fluidity of the crowd on J. Nakpil is matched only in Libis, although the latter has a different species blend altogether. As we people-watched, Mrs. M espied a huge black luxury vehicle, with pitch black-tinted windows, that had been going around for sometime. "Must be a real VIP," Mrs. M said.

Before we knew it, the lux vehicle had one window half-rolled down and the hand of Inno Sotto emerged waving at us. Of course, Inno, with top makeup artist Patrick Rosas, hopped down and climbed up to Mamma to join our table. The two had just come from Greenbelt where Inno said, "the scene was. Everybody but everybody was there." Mrs. M looked at Rockwell-loyalist-me and said, "I dare you to write that."

From Mamma, Mrs. M was game enough to bar-hop.

We walked her to Acquario, which we wanted her to see for its Ed Calma interiors of white fluid lines. A drag show was going on as we wormed our way through the crowd into the inner sections of Acquario. There were young bodies all over, deep in their chatter and deeper still in their boozing. A few stole glances at us. (Could it be because we didn't fit into the psychographics?)

On our way to the hip winding stairway—that was where Mrs. M almost bumped into the two guys doing their Saturday-night-hot kiss-and-hug thing. After her "Oh, my God!" I nudged her on to the mezzanine, there to case the scene once and for all. We really shouldn't bat an eyelash and spoil the lovers' eternal kissing and hugging (it was eternal, I swear, by my standards) unless we wanted to stick out of the, uh, psychographics, and unless we wanted Malate bars to bar ed-in-chiefs from hereon.

We landed at Fidel for our nightcap where we ran into Don Escudero, who had just come from "Juan Luna" at CCP and only had praises for Robert Seña. From our perch at Fidel, we watched as Nakpil turned into a stream of bodies out to party and to cruise, with people dancing at La Vida, with the picture windows of restos still picture-perfect for their picture-perfect diners, with al fresco bars in the center having no table to spare. For this population, no one should go home alone that night. That's the grand design of Nakpil.

Mrs. M asked Inno how he'd compare Malate to Greenbelt or Libis. Inno had a deliciously revealing answer, which we promised not to print.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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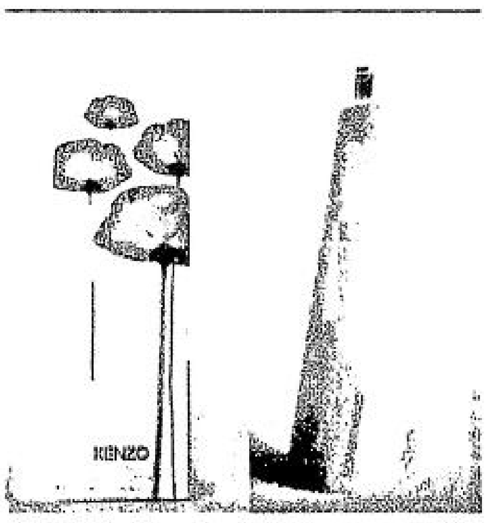
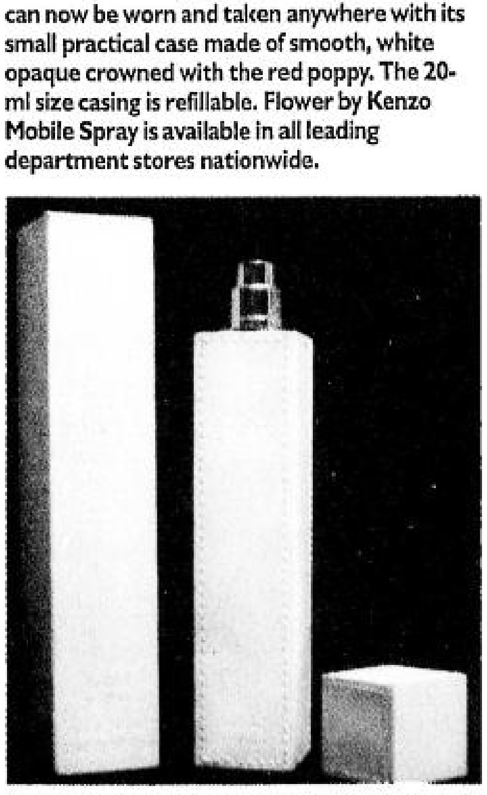


FLOWER by Kenzo has become more portable with its new casing. The powdery, floral scent can now be worn and taken anywhere with its small practical case made of smooth, white opaque crowned with the red poppy. The 20-ml size casing is refillable. Flower by Kenzo Mobile Spray is available in all leading department stores nationwide.



ENVY, the limited edition Gucci top-seller, is now available in all leading department stores. The Envy flacon and cap are all completely covered in white leather with an embossed logo. The bottle is encased in a very elegant matte and white paper folding box.

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

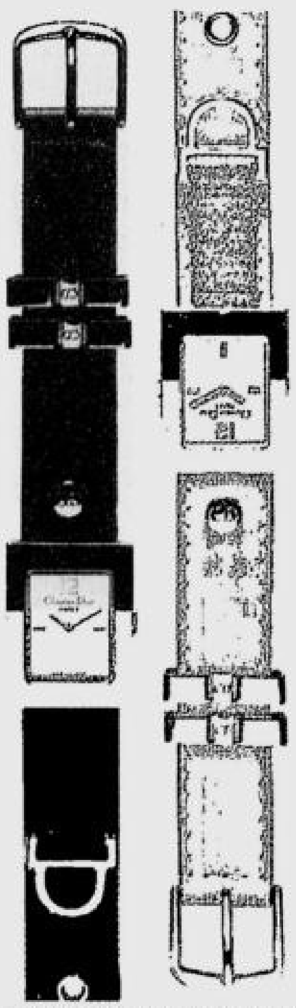
LIFESTYLE

Ticktock, tick talk

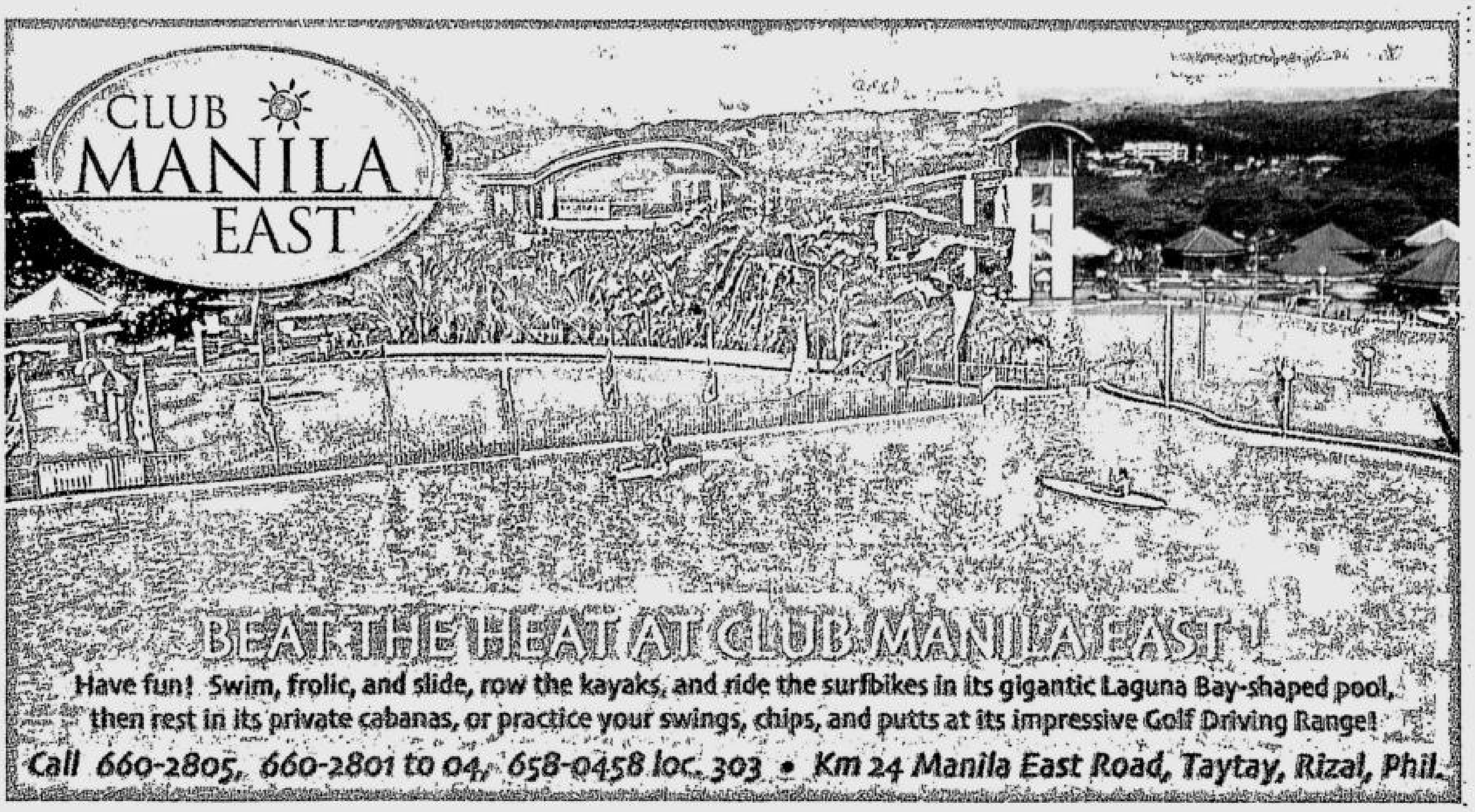
NOSTALGIA. The golden era of the '50s makes a comeback in Longines' Flagship. Slim, sleek case displays circular grooving on the bezel; in leather strap or stainless steel link bracelet with triple folding clasp.

PRECISION. Omega De Ville with coaxial escapement reduces friction among its mechanical parts for greater stability on time precision. Available in 18K yellow-gold or stainless steel, with satin-finished central section and fully polished edges; models in alligator strap bracelets are also available.

EXCLUSIVE. Adorned with butterfly-opening clasp, the Tag Heuer 2000 Exclusive comes in solid 18K gold. Men's timepieces feature chronometer certified automatic movement while the ladies' has quartz movement.



STREET CHIC. The strap's fabrics give Christian Dior's Malice Street Chic watch a new elegance, with CD-engraved pins and loops, CD-stamped buckle and a "D" hanging on a mini textile belt. Available in polished stainless steel or 18K gold-plated case, in beige or black leather strap.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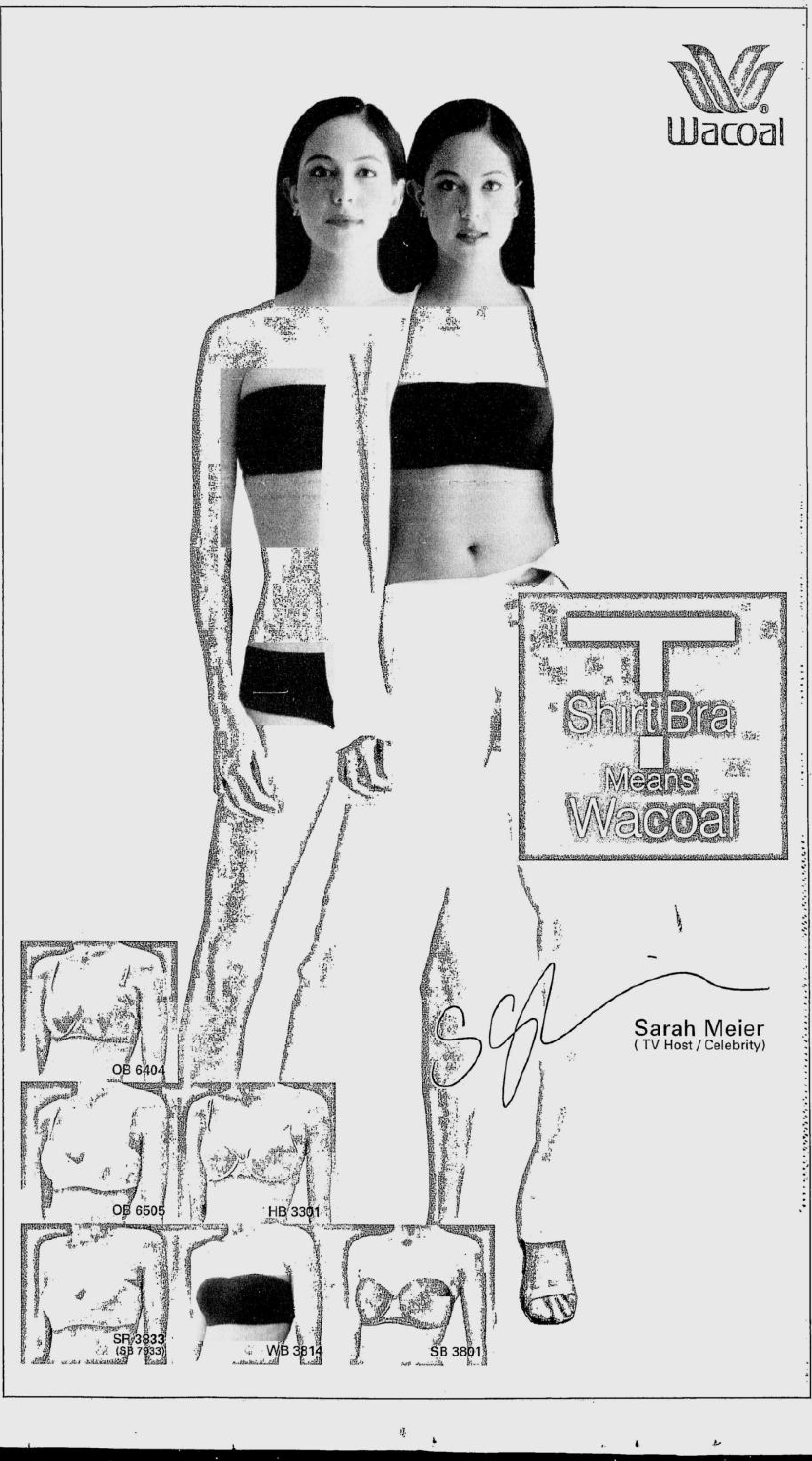
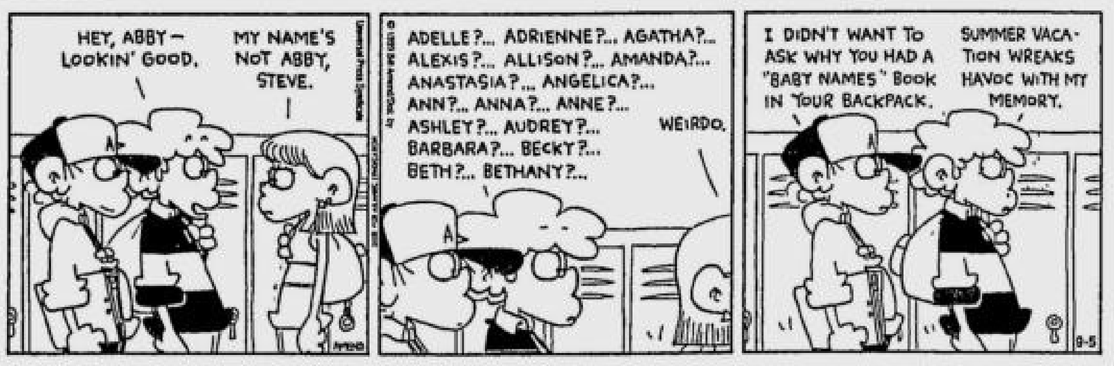

Wacoal

Shirt Bra Means Wacoal

Sarah Meier
(TV Host / Celebrity)

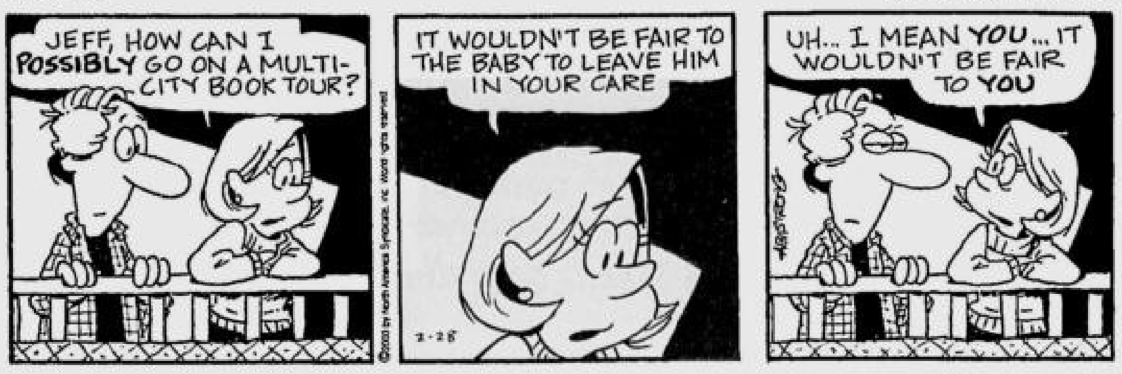
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HEY, ABBY — LOOKIN' GOOD.
MY NAME'S NOT ABBY, STEVE.
ADELLE?... ADRIENNE?... AGATHA?... ALEXIS?... ALLISON?... AMANDA?... ANASTASIA?... ANGELICA?... ANN?... ANNA?... ANNE?... ASHLEY?... AUDREY?... BARBARA?... BECKY?... BETH?... BETHANY?...
WEIRDO.
I DIDN'T WANT TO ASK WHY YOU HAD A "BABY NAMES" BOOK IN YOUR BACKPACK.
SUMMER VACATION WREAKS HAVOC WITH MY MEMORY.

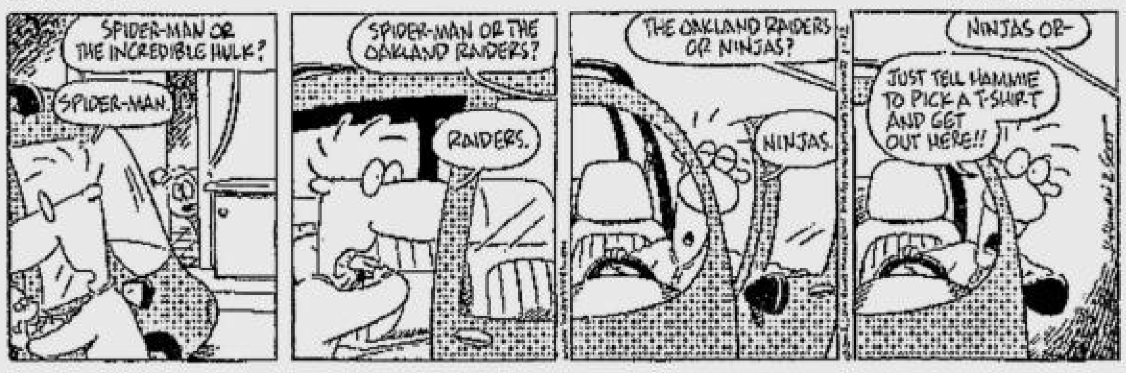
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


JEFF, HOW CAN I POSSIBLY GO ON A MULTI-CITY BOOK TOUR?
IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO THE BABY TO LEAVE HIM IN YOUR CARE
UH... I MEAN YOU... IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO YOU
2-28

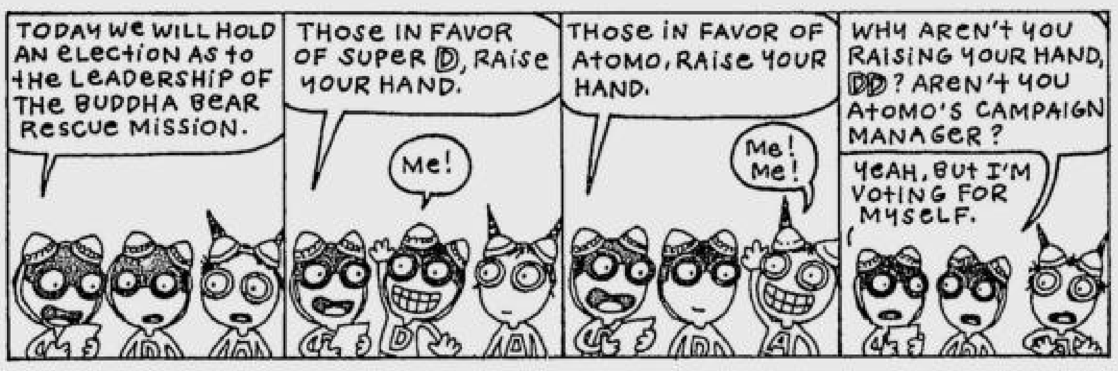
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SPIDER-MAN OR THE INCREDIBLE HULK?
SPIDER-MAN.
SPIDER-MAN OR THE OAKLAND RAIDERS?
RAIDERS.
THE OAKLAND RAIDERS OR NINJAS?
NINJAS.
NINJAS OR-
JUST TELL HAMMIE TO PICK A T-SHIRT AND GET OUT HERE!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BYLYRA GARCELLANO


TODAY WE WILL HOLD AN ELECTION AS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BUDDHA BEAR RESCUE MISSION.
THOSE IN FAVOR OF SUPER D, RAISE YOUR HAND.
ME!
THOSE IN FAVOR OF ATOMO, RAISE YOUR HAND.
ME! ME!
WHY AREN'T YOU RAISING YOUR HAND, DD? AREN'T YOU ATOMO'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER?
YEAH, BUT I'M VOTING FOR MYSELF.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are creative and artistic, and often perfect a particular technique. Basically, you have a keen appreciation of beauty -- in people, nature, art and your daily surroundings. You are easygoing and full of joy. In the year ahead, you will wrap up many things you have been involved with for the past decade.
Birthdate of: Ron Howard, director; Harry Belafonte, singer/film actor; Catherine Bach, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Since 1996, you have been reinventing yourself. This year you will finish the job. That is why you must secure your home as an anchor.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You will soon give serious thought to residential or job changes in the year ahead. This is inevitable for most of you. Plan ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Since 2001, you have embarked on a new journey of growth. Now you must give thought to your values and to what really matters. What must you do with the time left to you?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's been tough the past few years. Soon, however, you will be in a completely new sandbox. You will require a different wardrobe.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In the next two years, you can expect to say goodbye to and let go of many things. Now is a time of transition to prepare you for something new in 2005.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It is abundantly clear to you now what is working in your life and what is not. Work with what suits you, and leave behind what doesn't. Your first loss is your cheapest loss.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an exciting year for you. In the next two years, you will achieve success and experience a culmination of all the work you have done since 1996.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Many of you gave up support from a partner or someone else in the past year. This year, that loss becomes a thing of the past.

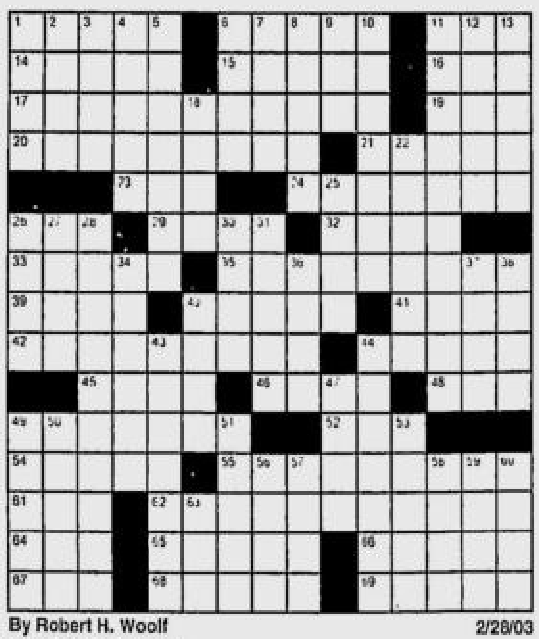
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Many of you have suffered a strain in your serious relationships and partnerships lately. Don't worry; relationships that are solid will endure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): All your hard work in the past few years now gives you a payoff this year. You will step out onto the stage in a bold, new way. Expect freedom and publicity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your job and your health improved wonderfully in this past year. Now you can look forward to happier relationships with loved ones. This includes your dealings with the public.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have much to look forward to this year, because everything related to employment gets a wonderful boost. No matter what your job, it will improve!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Woolf
North Woodmere, NY
2/28/03

ACROSS
1 Shane and Connie
6 Sneeze sound
11 Nav. rank
14 WWII sea menace
15 A Marx Brother
16 Poetic planet
17 Brightly colored, spiny fabric?
19 Little piggy
20 Couturier Yves
21 Adlai's 1956 running mate
23 Peak on Crete
24 __ & Principe
26 33rd president
29 Self-images
32 Searing injury
33 Drying cloth
35 Contemplated
39 Level
40 Fashion
41 Make a driveway
42 Abundant
44 Colorado ski resort
45 Clock face
46 Caesar's question to Brutus
48 Annapolis grad
49 Shah's former capital
52 Gradual bend
54 Give off
55 Plenty of space
61 Masters players' org.
62 Design a tatted route?
64 Car's rear end?
65 Warren and Scruggs
66 Minimum
67 Atl. summer hrs.
68 Ringlet
69 Raines and Fitzgerald

DOWN
1 No __, no fuss
2 Aid in wrong-doing
3 Fossil fuel
4 Hawaiian island
5 Rolled pastry loaf
6 Yearning
7 Something to keep up
8 Clues
9 Halloween mo.
10 Seep forth
11 Captured on a cloth video?
12 Brief intro
13 Needs to lose
18 Rocky outcrop
22 Sandal ties
25 Irish Rose's lover
26 Letters before www
27 Ground
28 Woolen valentine?
30 Melville work
31 Smooth transition
34 Banks and Kovacs
36 Fine, dry particles
37 All tied up
38 Cozy spots
40 Constellation in Argo Navis
43 Mini-pie
44 Halo
47 Bath powder
49 Home on the plains
50 __ on (incited)
51 Mother-of-pearl
53 Savage
56 Tillis and Brooks
57 Overtake
58 Word of mouth
59 Greek mountain
60 New York nine
63 Rhine tributary

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	A	F	■	D	A	C	H	A	■	S	H	A	D
E	L	L	E	■	E	L	M	E	R	■	C	O	L	A
A	L	A	R	■	I	D	L	E	R	O	O	M	E	R
F	A	I	R	Y	T	A	I	L	■	R	O	O	S	T
■	■	■	Y	A	Y	■	■	■	L	A	P	P	■	■
H	O	W	T	O	■	■	S	O	I	L	■	H	U	B
O	S	H	A	■	■	B	A	B	A	■	L	O	B	E
S	T	O	L	■	S	A	V	O	R	■	E	N	O	L
T	E	L	E	■	T	R	E	F	■	■	V	E	A	L
S	O	L	■	B	I	E	R	■	■	R	E	S	T	S
■	■	Y	S	E	R	■	■	■	M	A	E	■	■	■
T	E	H	E	E	■	F	L	O	E	F	L	O	W	S
I	D	O	L	R	U	M	O	R	S	■	E	D	I	E
W	A	L	E	■	S	A	N	T	A	■	V	I	L	E
A	M	Y	S	■	A	M	I	S	S	■	Y	E	L	P

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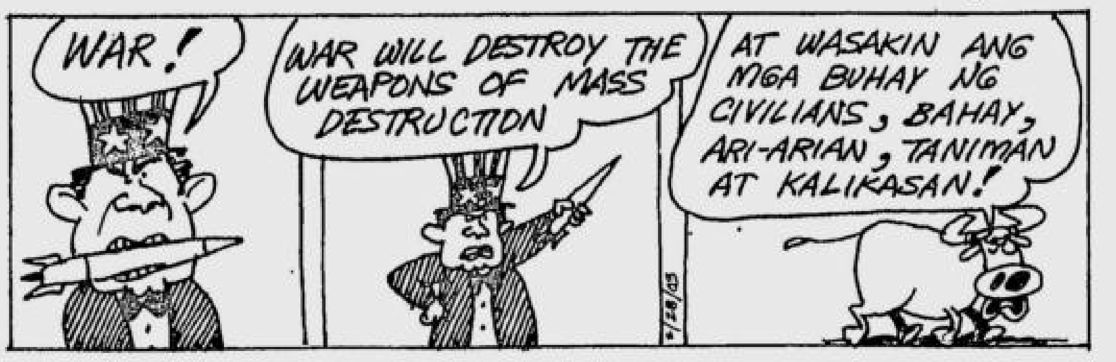
2/28/03

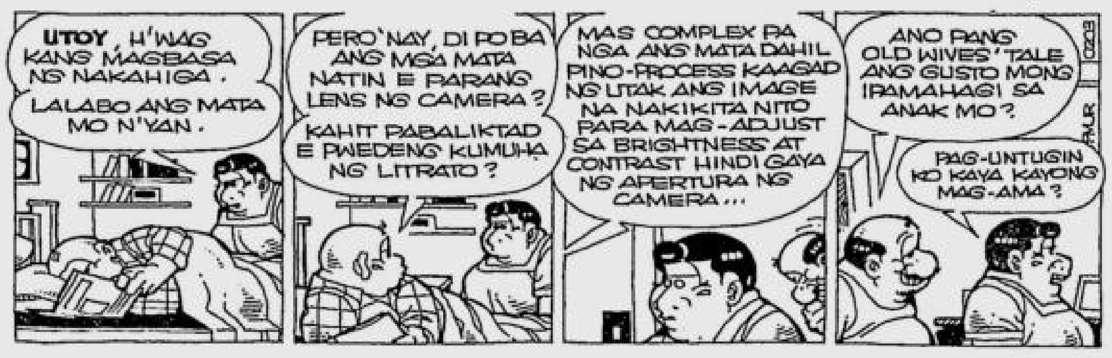
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WAR!
WAR WILL DESTROY THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
AT WASAKIN ANG MGA BUHAY NG CIVILIANS, BAHAY, ARI-ARIAN, TANIMAN AT KALIKASAN!
2/28/03

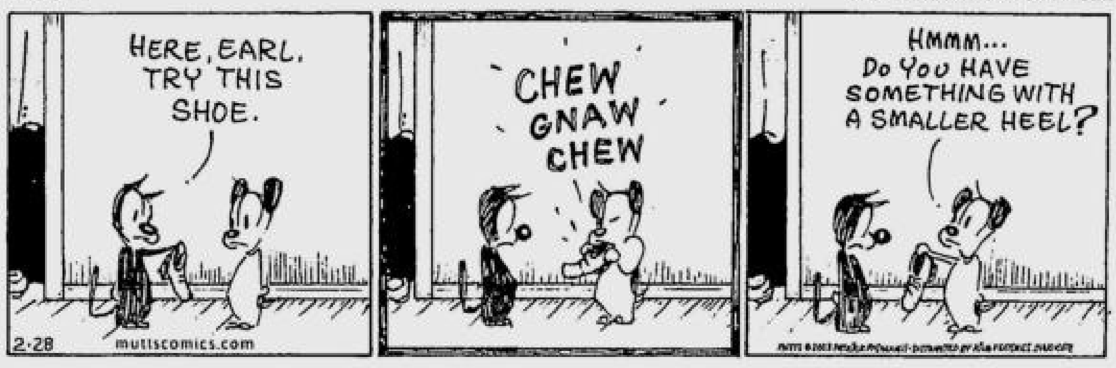
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


UTOY, H'WAG KANG MAGBASA NG NAKAHIGA.
LALABO ANG MATA MO N'YAN.
PERO 'NAY, DI PO BA ANG MGA MATA NATIN E PARANG LENS NG CAMERA?
KAHIT PABALIKTAD E PWEDENG KUMUHA NG LITRATO?
MAS COMPLEX PA NGA ANG MATA DAHIL PINO-PROCESS KAAGAD NG UTAK ANG IMAGE NA NAKIKITA NITO PARA MAG-ADJUST SA BRIGHTNESS AT CONTRAST HINDI GAYA NG APERTURA NG CAMERA...
ANO PANG OLD WIVES' TALE ANG GUSTO MONG IPAMAHAGI SA ANAK MO?
PAG-UNTUGIN KO KAYA KAYONG MAG-AMA?

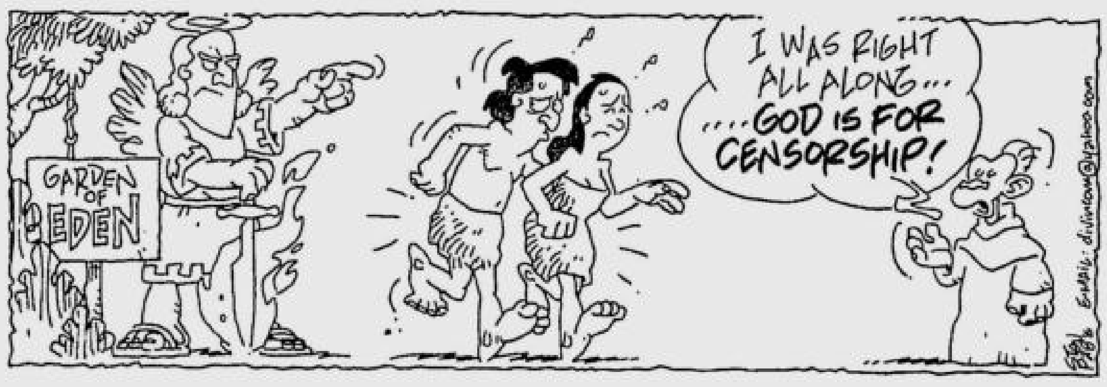
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HERE, EARL. TRY THIS SHOE.
CHEW GNAW CHEW
HMMM... DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING WITH A SMALLER HEEL?
2-28
muttscomics.com

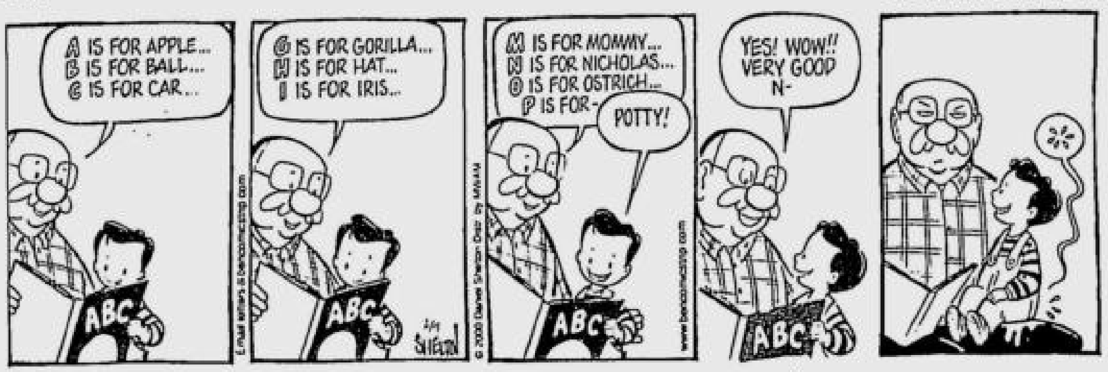
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


GARDEN OF EDEN
I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG... ...GOD IS FOR CENSORSHIP!

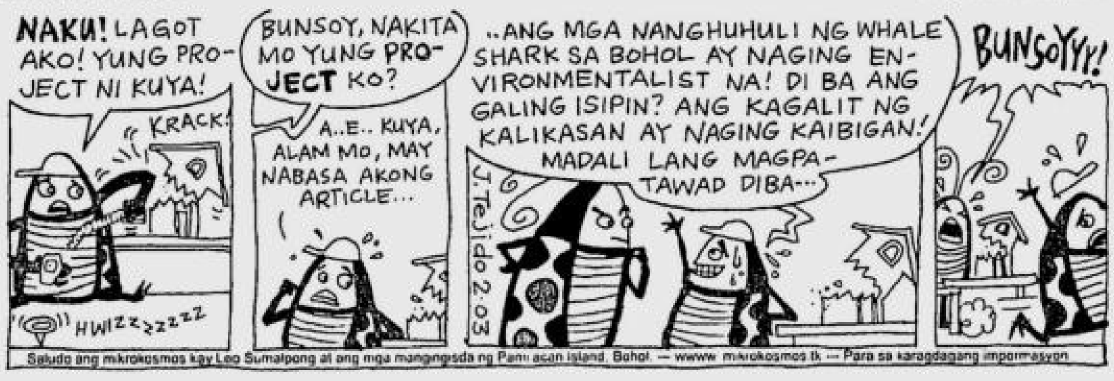
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


A IS FOR APPLE... B IS FOR BALL... C IS FOR CAR...
G IS FOR GORILLA... H IS FOR HAT... I IS FOR IRIS...
M IS FOR MOMMY... N IS FOR NICHOLAS... O IS FOR OSTRICH... P IS FOR-
POTTY!
YES! WOW!! VERY GOOD N-
ABC

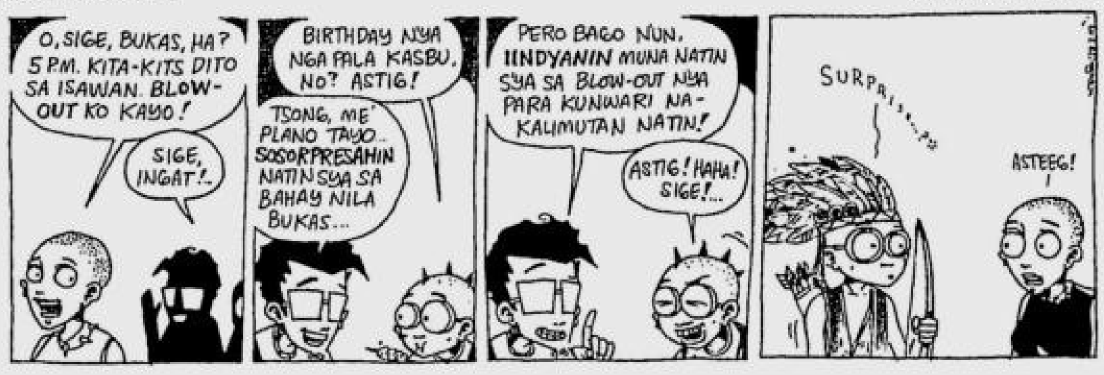
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU! LAGOT AKO! YUNG PROJECT NI KUYA!
KRACK!
HWIZZZZZZZ
BUNSOY, NAKITA MO YUNG PROJECT KO?
A..E.. KUYA, ALAM MO, MAY NABASA AKONG ARTICLE...
..ANG MGA NANGHUHULI NG WHALE SHARK SA BOHOL AY NAGING ENVIRONMENTALIST NA! DI BA ANG GALING ISIPIN? ANG KAGALIT NG KALIKASAN AY NAGING KAIBIGAN!
MADALI LANG MAGPATAWAD DIBA...
J. Tejido 2.03
BUNSOYYY!
Saludo ang mikrokosmos kay Leo Sumalpong at ang mga mangingisda ng Pamilacan island, Bohol. — wwww mikrokosmos.tk — Para sa karagdagang impormasyon

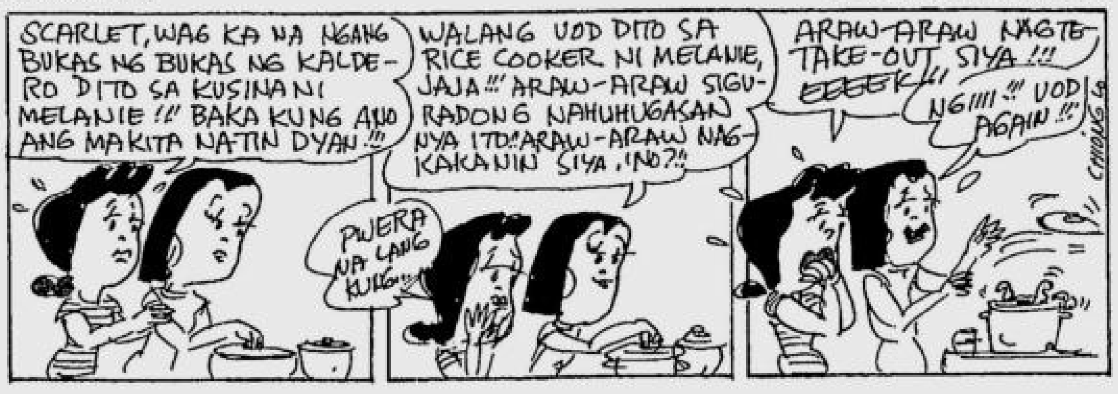
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O, SIGE, BUKAS, HA? 5 P.M. KITA-KITS DITO SA ISAWAN. BLOW-OUT KO KAYO!
SIGE, INGAT!
BIRTHDAY NYA NGA PALA KASBU, NO? ASTIG!
TSONG, ME' PLANO TAYO.. SOSORPRESAHIN NATIN SYA SA BAHAY NILA BUKAS...
PERO BAGO NUN, IINDYANIN MUNA NATIN SYA SA BLOW-OUT NYA PARA KUNWARI NAKALIMUTAN NATIN!
ASTIG! HAHA! SIGE!...
SURPRISE...
ASTEEG!

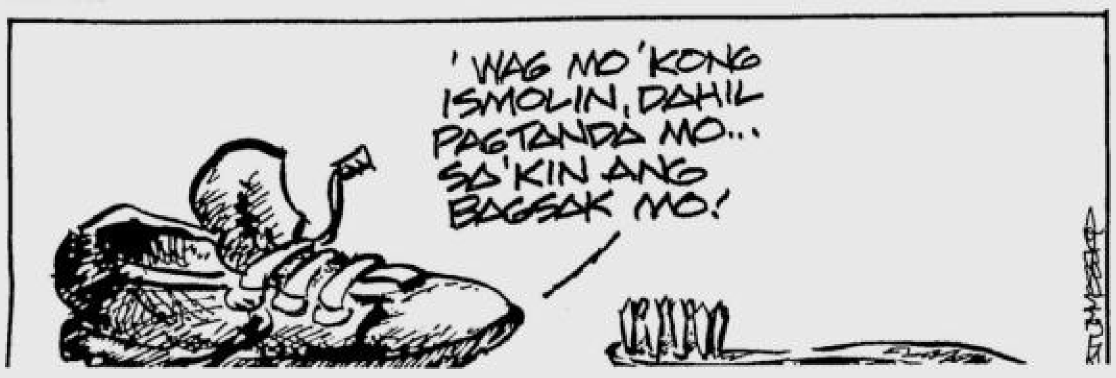
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, WAG KA NA NGANG BUKAS NG BUKAS NG KALDERO DITO SA KUSINA NI MELANIE!!! BAKA KUNG ANO ANG MAKITA NATIN DYAN!!!
WALANG UOD DITO SA RICE COOKER NI MELANIE, JAJA!!! ARAW-ARAW SIGURADONG NAHUHUGASAN NYA ITO! ARAW-ARAW NAGKAKANIN SIYA, 'NO?!
PWERA NA LANG KUNG...
ARAW-ARAW NAGTE-TAKE-OUT SIYA!!!
EEEEK!!!
NGIII!!! UOD AGAIN!!!
CHIONG

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG MO 'KONG ISMOLIN, DAHIL PAGTANDA MO... SA'KIN ANG BAGSAK MO!

HALA BIRA!

Hala Shopping na!

Sale sa Ever

WIN!
Hundreds of Exciting Prizes
during the
Live Radio Broadcast
over MAGIC 89.9 Today's Best Music

Feb. 28, Mar. 1 & 2
10am to 10pm

Ever GOTESCO malls

ORTIGAS • COMMONWEALTH • GRAND CENTRAL • RECTO

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0690 Series of 2003

PARTNERSHIP etched in style for Samsung vice president for marketing and sales Martin Bae, Globe Telecom sales and distribution head Lizanne Uychaco, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Globe Telecom head of retail marketing Raya Roa and Samsung brand manager Anaisse Fragante

Chic 'cellmate' for women

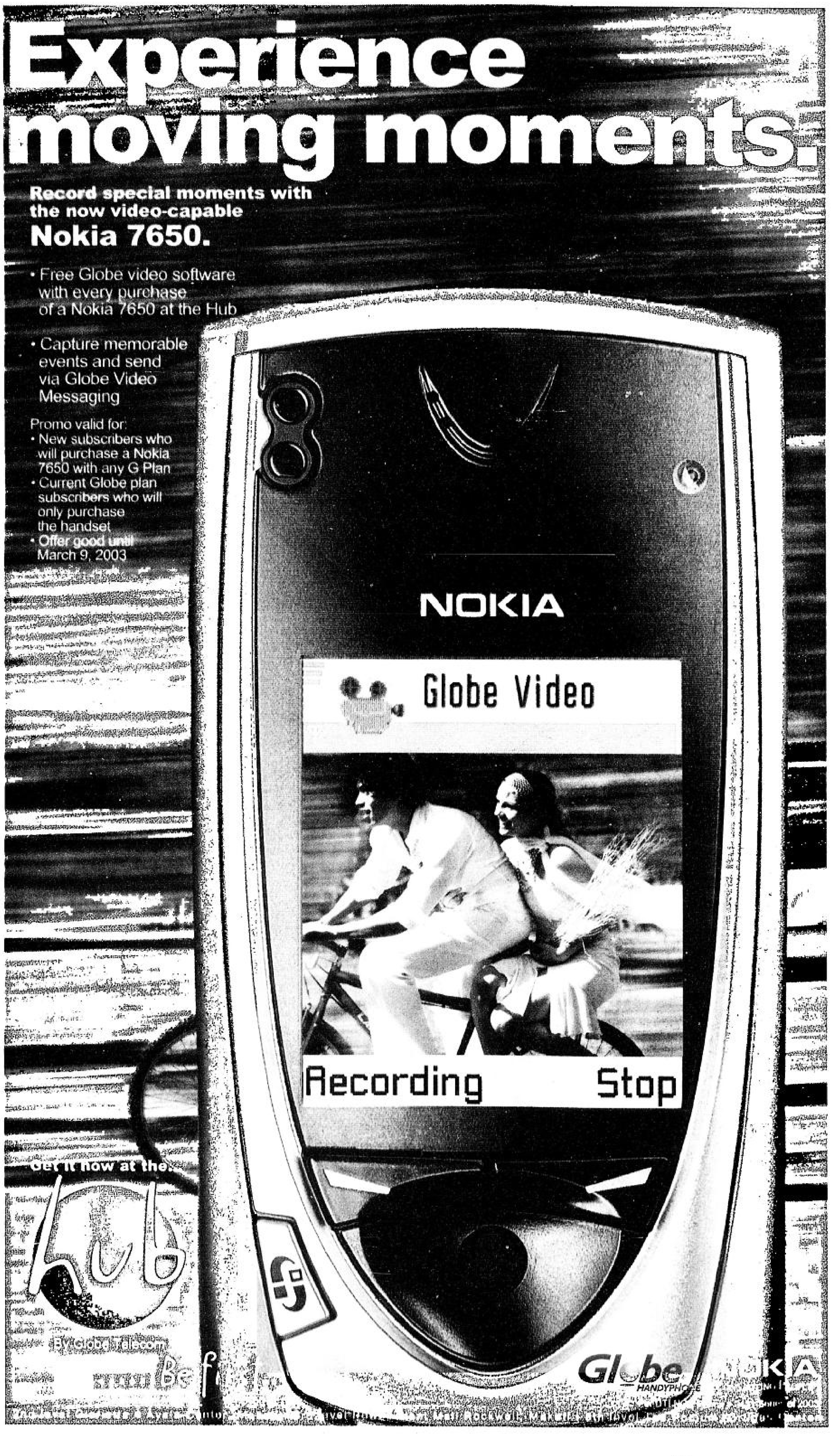
STYLE icon Tessa Prieto-Valdes, a Globe platinum subscriber, was the guest of honor when the Hub Podium unveiled the Samsung T500, a phone specially fashioned for women who care about looking glamorous.

Every handset purchase of the Samsung T500 with a G-Plan until today at the Hub comes with a free 150 ml bottle of Bvlgari lotion.

The Samsung T500's key features include 65,000-color screen, which doubles as a vanity mirror, a pink scheduler that monitors fertility and a calorie counter to keep track of calories burned. It also has a biorhythm feature that can check daily physical, emotional and intellectual cycles.

Present during the unveiling were Samsung vice president for marketing and sales Martin Bae, Samsung brand manager Anaisse Fragante, Globe Telecom sales and distribution head Lizanne Uychaco, Globe Telecom head of retail marketing Raya Roa, Globe Telecom retail marketing senior manager Patty Forbes, Luxasia (Bvlgari) group product manager April Marquez and product manager Ann Marie Wongchuking.

The Hub by Globe Telecom is a retail showcase of the latest handsets and mobile technology bundled with value-added services. Other Hub outlets are located at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall and Glorietta 4.



Experience moving moments.

Record special moments with the now video-capable
Nokia 7650.

- Free Globe video software with every purchase of a Nokia 7650 at the Hub
- Capture memorable events and send via Globe Video Messaging

Promo valid for:
- New subscribers who will purchase a Nokia 7650 with any G Plan
- Current Globe plan subscribers who will only purchase the handset
- Offer good until March 9, 2003

Get it now at the
hub
By Globe Telecom

Globe HANDYPHONE

THE HUB by Globe Telecom offers the latest handsets and mobile technology bundled with value added services, located at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Podium and Glorietta 4.

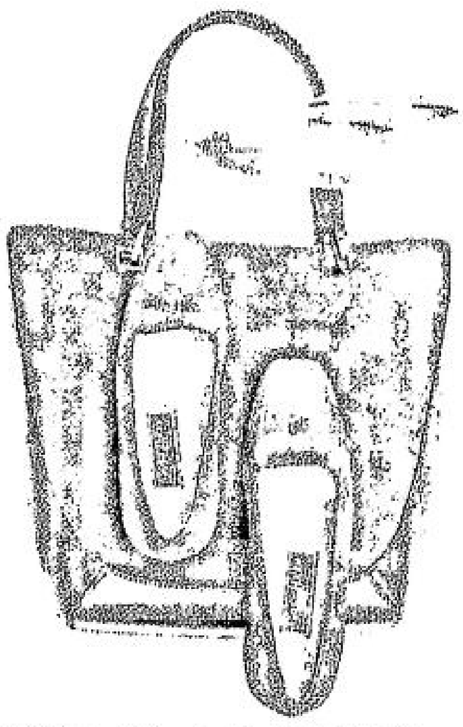
Cool prizes from Cole Haan shops

COLE Haan, the leading American house of fine footwear and accessories, will give away five gift certificates worth P50,000 each to lucky shoppers in the "Cole Haan Shopping Pleasures" promo.

Starting today, customers who purchase regular-priced Cole Haan footwear will be entitled to raffle coupons. Participating stores include the Cole Haan boutiques at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Rustan's Harrison Plaza and Rustan's Alabang Town Center.

Cole Haan was established in Yarmouth, Maine, USA, in 1928. Its product line includes shoes, bags, wallets, belts and shoe-care products. One of its breakthrough designs, and certainly its best-selling, is the incorporation of the vaunted Nike Air technology into its leather shoe line.

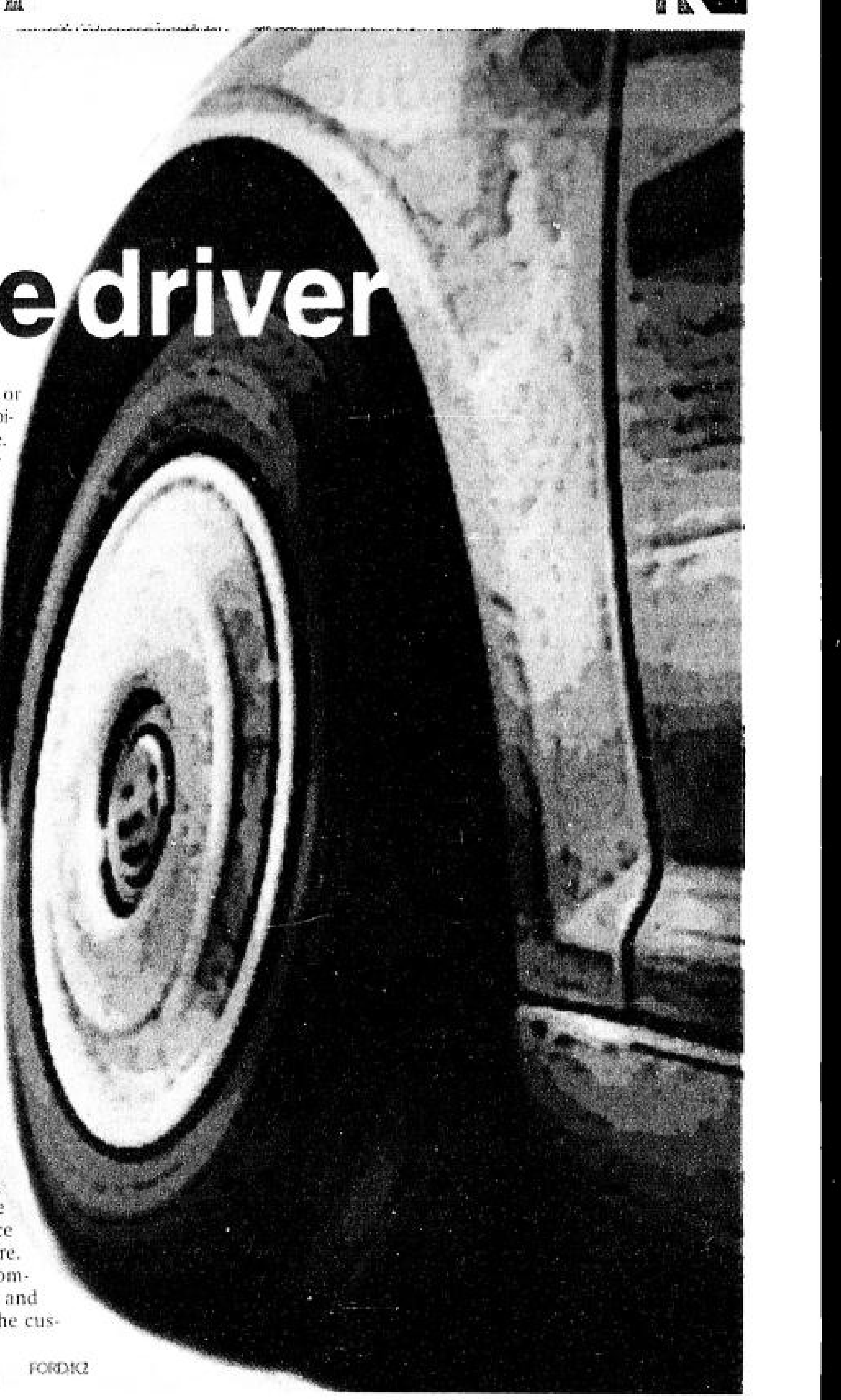
Deadline is April 13. The grand draw is on April 25. Call 711-7343/45 or 415-0333.



TERIZA shoe is handcrafted in Italy in the finest kidskin or cashmere suede with contrast stitch. It is fully leather-lined and has a softly buffed leather sole in combination with a stacked leather heel. The Madison bag is sculpted in soft Spanish calfskin and has a multifunction interior and a functional latch hook for keys. Its nylon lining offers complete durability while the polished nickel hardware adds flair.

ROAD TALK

Show you're a sensible driver

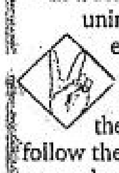


WE DRIVE by signs. The signs other drivers show us can be as important as the road signs we see. While some signals are obvious, such as a horizontally waving hand signifying the other driver is letting us pass before he does, other signals are open to many interpretations.

The following "seven sensible signals" described by the US National Motorist Association aims to enhance motorist-to-motorist communication, and ultimately improve our driving environment.

In the late 1980s the NMA researched and developed a series of seven messages and simple signals to convey these messages.

Apology



In a brief lapse of attention or judgment you unintentionally inconvenience, irritate, or endanger another motorist. You feel embarrassed and the other driver is angry, the "Apology" signal can diffuse the destructive anger and frustration that follow these unfortunate encounters. To signal an apology, hold two fingers in a "V" position, palm out.

Slow down, danger ahead

You see an obstacle in the road and would like to alert other motorists to the potential danger. The "Slow Down" signal will warn others of an accident, obstacle, or any dangerous condition.

To alert traffic approaching from the opposite direction, turn your headlights off and on. To alert traffic approaching from the rear, activate your brake lights or extend your left arm and motion downward.

If you see the "Slow Down" signal from another motorist, heed the warning.

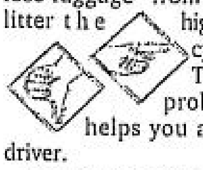
Lane courtesy

While traveling on a multilane highway you wish to pass another vehicle that is in the left "passing" lane. The "Lane Courtesy" signal will alert the other motorist of your intention.

Signal your intention by turning the left directional light on and off, 4 to 6 blinks at a time. If the slower vehicle does not respond to the left turn signal, briefly flash your headlights to gain the attention of the other driver.

If you see the "Lane Courtesy" signal from the motorist behind you, check the adjacent right lane, pull over when it is safe to do so, and let the faster vehicle pass.

Pull over for problem

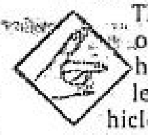


You come across a vehicle about to have a flat, or lose luggage from an outside rack or litter the highway with skis, bicycles or furniture. The "Pull over for problem" signal helps you alert the other driver.

To alert another motorist of a problem with his or her vehicle, first point in the direction of the problem (up for loose roof rack, back for trailer problem, etc.), then signal "thumbs down."

If you receive this signal from another motorist, pull over and check your vehicle.

Light problem



The directional lights on another vehicle have been unknowingly left on. You see a vehicle with a burned out headlight or taillight. You would like to alert the other driver of the problem...

DRIVER/K2

Ford introduces new 2003 Ranger pick-up

BRACE yourself for a dose of no-nonsense power. Ford Group Philippines introduces the new 2003 Ford Ranger pick-up, which rolls out in all authorized Ford dealerships nationwide.

Made in the world-class Auto Alliance (Thailand) facility, the Ford Ranger is available in three models: the Ranger 4x2 XL, 4x2 Trekker and the Ranger 4x4 XLT. It is equipped with a 2.5-liter Intercooled Turbo Diesel engine, churning out 117 horsepower and making the new Ford Ranger the most powerful pick-up in its class.

"The new 2003 Ranger has been developed to cope easily with the exceptional demands that pick-up drivers need to make of their vehicles," said Dave Macasadia, Ford Philippines vice president for sales and marketing. "We believe there is now a Ranger model to suit every need—from the rugged, dependable workhorse to the versatile, dual-purpose vehicle that can be used with confidence and pride for both work and leisure. Now, more than ever, Ranger combines ruggedness, dependability and style—in whatever proportion the customer chooses."

FORD/K2

Ford
No Boundaries
PULL. PULL AWAY. PULL OVER.
RANGER
THE NEW FORD RANGER

Most Powerful 2.5L Intercooled Turbo Diesel Engine
First and only in its class with Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS)
First and only in its class with Dual SRS Airbags
Premium In-dash CD Stereo System

With the mightiest horsepower and torque in its class, tougher than ever cab structure, new styling, larger payload capacity plus 4x4 off-road excellence, it's no wonder nothing comes close to the new Ford Ranger. But be careful how quickly you speed off with the goods, that could be a siren you're hearing in the distance.

ERA 24-HOUR EMERGENCY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Ford Motor Company 100 YEARS

• Ford Ranger 4x2 XL: P620,000 • Ford Ranger 4x2 Trekker: P780,000 • Ford Ranger 4x4 XLT: P960,000

Philippines copyright©2002 by Ford Group Philippines

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Ford introduces new 2003 . . .

FROMPAGEK1

Purposeful new design

Ford designers have enhanced the Ranger's tough features to make it look bolder and more muscular than ever, with a completely new bonnet, grille, bumper and headlamps. A higher bonnet line gives Ranger a more aggressive profile and stance. The distinctive new chrome grille gives the new Ranger a closer family likeness to the successful American Ranger and F-Series pick-ups, while the XLT model also benefits from a tough new chrome bumper.

4x4 transmission

The 4x4 transmission has three modes—rear-wheel drive for normal road conditions, 4x4 high ratio for adverse on- and off-road conditions, and 4x4 low ratio for extreme off-road conditions. Electronic Remote Free Wheel hubs, fitted as standard, facilitate changing between 2-wheel and 4-wheel-drive (high ratio) at any speed, and with ease for such tasks as reversing and stopping versus some competitor systems.

Selecting 4-wheel-drive (high ratio) while stationary automatically locks the front-wheel-drive mechanism. It then remains locked, allowing the driver to shift back and forth between 4-wheel-drive (high ratio) and 2-wheel-drive while on the move, until the RFW switch on the dashboard is pushed. As with all off-road vehicles with low-ratio-gears, 4-wheel-drive (low ratio) can only be selected while the vehicle is stationary.

Interior package

But its new design is not all brawn, chrome accents on side mirrors and door handles and 2-tone paint accents (on the 4x4 variant) make the vehicle equally suited for both work and leisure. Its all-power amenities, remote keyless entry, radio with in-dash CD and 4-speaker system ensure driving comfort and convenience. Its distinctly improved interior with silver accent instrument panel, blue-faced dials and new fabric design enhances driving pleasure.

Noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) levels are improved and wind noise is reduced, thanks to improved window glass sealing.

The new Ranger will be available in six exciting colors: Cool White, Nifty Red, Dark Green Mica, Dark Blue, Spruce Green and Amber.

Enhanced safety

When you're tough, you've got to be safe. The Ford Ranger's numerous safety features make it an even more secure vehicle. Wit Side Impact Bars and Dual Air Bags, the Ford Ranger puts occupant safety up front. It is the only pickup in its class to have the Anti-Lock Brake System, ensuring utmost control, especially during hard-braking situations.

Following in the tracks of the previous model, the new Ranger also meets Ford's stringent "Core Safety Guidelines", which include frontal perpendicular barrier impact and rear-moving barrier tests.

Owners of the new Ford Ranger will also be enrolled in the Emergency Roadside Assistance (ERA) program, which gives them an added feeling of security on the road. An emergency hotline immediately dispatches assistance to provide minor on-site repairs and provide towing services to the nearest Ford dealership.

ERA customer service assistants man the ERA hotline center, which provides quick information on hospitals, transmittal of urgent messages, arrangement of alternative means of transportation, medical evacuation and other related services that can be of help to you during times of emergency.

Marketing

The 2003 Ford Ranger will have an introductory price of P620,000 for the 2.9L For Ranger 4x2 XL M/T, while the 2.5L Ford Ranger 4x2 Trekker M/T will retail for P780,000. The price of the higher-end Ranger 4x4 XLT with 2-tone paint is at P960,000.

The new Ford Ranger is available in all Ford dealerships in Metro Manila, which include Makati, Edsa, Libis, Balintawak, Quezon Avenue and Alabang, as well as in the provinces of Pampanga, Cabanatuan, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and in San Pablo, Laguna.

Honda Fit 2002 best-selling vehicle in Japan

HONDA Motor Co. Ltd. recently announced its small car model the Fit achieved cumulative unit sales of 250,790 units in Japan in 2002, according to the statistics of the Japan Automobile Dealers Association. Thus, Fit became the top-selling vehicle in Japan, the first time that a Honda model has reached the No. 1 spot in yearly cumulative sales.

Since its launch in June 2001, the Fit has proved popular with a wide range of customers for its trend-setting styling, good fuel economy and excellent user-friendly features. Its cumulative sales now total 355,088 units in about a year-and-a-half since its launch.

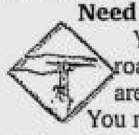
The Fit was first exported to Europe in November 2001, and is currently sold, to high acclaim, in about 60 countries as of December 2002. Including exports, cumulative production of the Fit, which is manufactured at the Suzuka factory, has exceeded 400,000 units.

Driver . . .

FROMPAGEK1

To signal a motorist to "check your lights," open and close your hand touching the thumb and fingertips together.

Need assistance

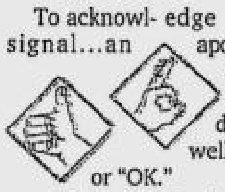


You are pulled over to the side of the road and need help. Most passersby are unsure what help, if any, is needed. You need to signal for help without conveying panic.

To signal for assistance, make the sign of a "T" by crossing one hand above the other.

If you see the "Need Assistance" signal, you must make a decision whether you will stop, phone for help, or ignore the appeal.

I understand

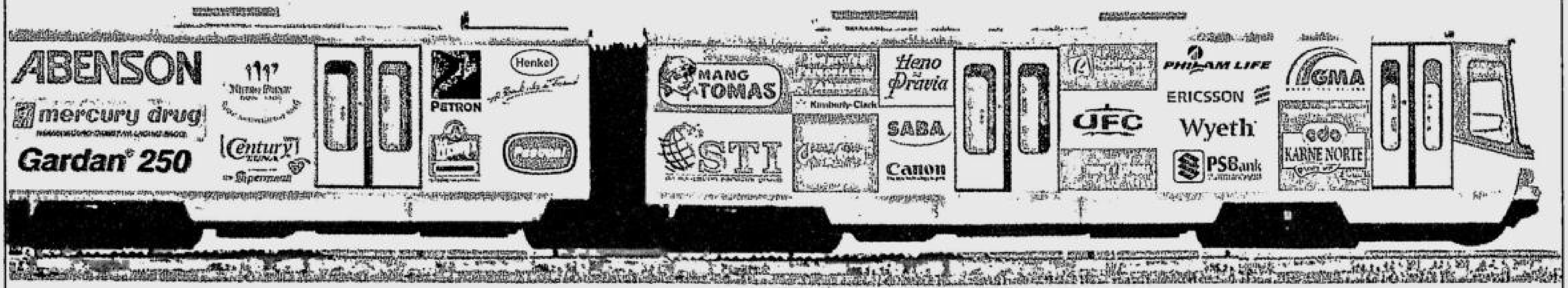


To acknowl- edge another motorist's signal...an apology light problem or problem pull over signal, for example, or to thank another driver for courtesy, use the well-understood "Thumbs up" or "OK."

from the ***National Motorists Association, Wisconsin***

MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

ALL ABOARD!



**More than 50 top companies have placed ads in Libre.
What do they know that you don't?**

Aimed at 600,000 working class commuters of LRT and MRT, Inquirer Libre provides a captive audience with the time to read news and advertising messages. With its crisp, exciting articles and handy size, these early morning commuters no longer sleep or do nothing inside the train. When they get off the train, they pass on their copies to officemates, friends and other family members, thus, extending the reach of the paper. But the best thing about Libre is that it is FREE. Making it perhaps the most captivating thing in transit.

The companies on board took the right vehicle to reach their market: Libre. So, what are you waiting for? Climb on board. For info on ad rates and other inquiries, call Izelle Medina (0920) 9017538 or Jenny Rockwell (0918) 9380952 to reserve your seat.

We've captured your market. Inquirer Libre

Volvo's 'weighty' evidence for child passenger safety

Q: What instantly turns 60 pounds into 2,700 pounds?
A: A 30-mph crash.

FORCE = mass x acceleration. While that maybe an oversimplification, the fact is the laws of physics are unyielding. Imagine this: A 60 pound unbelted child in the back seat of a car traveling at a mere 30 miles (48 km) per hour involved in a sudden collision can weigh as much as a young elephant—about 2,700 pounds. That means the child can, during a frontal accident, impact the windshield or the front seat occupant with deadly force. Not a pretty physics lesson.

False: An unbelted person in the rear seat is safe.

True: It's a human tragedy that is easy to prevent!

Accidents will happen, but they don't have to become tragedies. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an estimated 4,193 children's lives were saved from 1975 to 1998 by the use of safety belts and child restraints.

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, 75 percent of all crashes occur within 25 miles (40 km) of home. And most of those take place on roads with maximum speed limits of 40 miles (64 km) per hour or less.

"Restraints help people and cars move together. Imagine trying to keep your balance in a standing room only train car as it lurches forward suddenly or stops abruptly without something to brace yourself with" comments Christer Gustafsson, senior safety engineer for Volvo Cars, Sweden.

A car's seat belt keeps doing its job of helping to retain the occupant within the safety structure of the cabin after the initial impact has occurred. Accidents might involve secondary impacts and rollovers. It is the seat belts that help keep the rear-seated occupants strapped safely inside the vehicle until the energy of the accident has dissipated. "During a roll-over the effect is very much like clothes in a washing machine during the spin cycle. There are huge forces that can easily eject occupants who are not using a seat belt," states Christer.

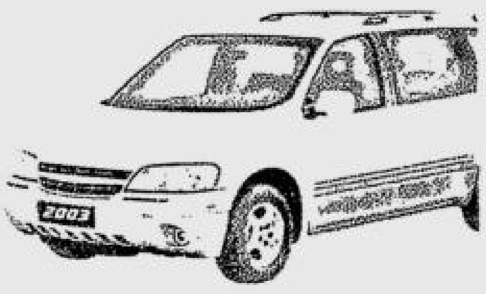
Volvo pioneered the in-car use of three-point front seat belt system in 1959. Rear-seat outboard three-point belts became standard Volvo fare in 1967 (23 years before they were required by US law). Since 1985, Volvo has installed rear center position three-point belts in its 740/760 series and later 940/960 series. Today all Volvos are equipped with three-point seat belts at all seating positions. Even the V70 and Cross Country wagons, when fitted with the optional rear-facing third row seat, also includes three-point belts.

Small children who have outgrown their toddler seat should use a booster cushion to help properly position the three-point seat belt. Volvo offers the integrated child booster cushion for children 40-80 pounds who need to be comfortable and properly restrained. There are two styles: one that can be moved from car to car, the other is built into the seat cushion. The car's rear seat bottom opens up, its lower half then forming a booster seat cushion. This cushion is high enough to correctly position the lap portion of the seat belt low across the child's hips, together with the vehicle's adjustable center head restraint forms a comfortable and safe seat for the child.

"I'm often asked, 'What's the most important safety feature in your Volvos?'" states Christer. "With great fun, I say, 'The driver'. After all, the driver makes the decision to properly use safety devices we engineer into our cars. Using seat belts is so easy, if more people understand the law of physics, people would see the importance of using seat belts—in both front and rear seats. Parents should set the example by using their seat belts and insisting the rear seat passengers do the same. Offer your beloved children the same safety you do when you buckle-up. Having everyone belted is a great gift of life and love."

In Manila, Viking Cars Inc. is the official dealer of Volvo cars. The Volvo Makati office, showroom and after sales service center are located at 2272 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City with telephone numbers 893-6621 to 22, while Volvo Ortigas Center is located at 88 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The 2002 Volvo automobile line includes the sporty S60, the flagship S80 luxury sedan, the versatile V70 wagon and rugged Cross Country, and the compact S40 and V40 models.

GM introduces Chevy Venture LT model



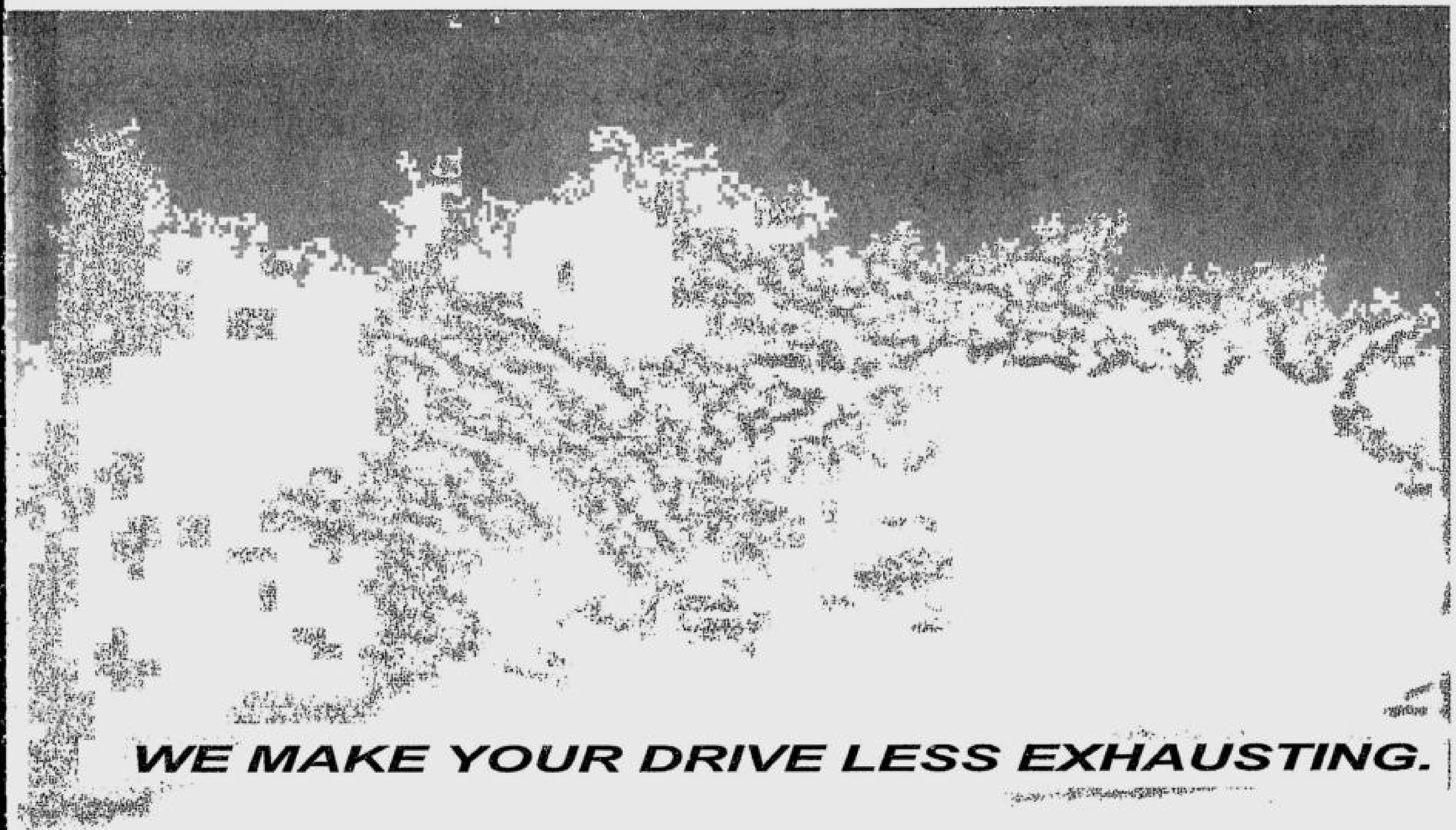
ONE of the best selling minivans in the market just got better. General Motors Automobiles Philippines Inc. (GMPh) recently introduced the Chevrolet Venture LT model.

Passengers aboard the new Chevy minivan can sit in luxurious comfort in its plump cushioned seats while watching their favorite movies as the new model comes with a VCD entertainment system. Also contributing to the well-appointed cabin are the beige interiors and wood paneling in the center console.

Other standard features have also been added to the minivan. Parking will now be a breeze as the new Venture comes with a backing sensor. Roof rails have also been installed to accommodate larger and bulkier luggage needed during long out-of-town trips.

"We make sure that we continue to provide our customers with the utmost riding and driving comfort by constantly coming up with features and innovations to fit their ever changing needs," said Nicky Mariano, GMPh senior marketing manager.

The Chevrolet Venture LT comes in automatic transmission for P1.26 million and is now available in GM AutoWorld retailers in Makati (843-0217 to 20), Quezon Avenue (415-8878/413-8133), Shaw Boulevard (535-4938/535-4930), Pampanga (045 535-4938/535-4930) and Cebu (032 234-0426).



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All diesel fueled Mitsubishi vehicles are now made Euro Compliant, meeting strict emissions requirements. We do this because we not only care about the safety of our passengers, but also that of the world we live in.

These are also backed up with a 3-year/100,000km warranty.

3 WARRANTY

All Adventures, Pajeros, Stradas, Space Gears, and Exceeds come with Mitsubishi's 3-year/100,000km Warranty.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

INTRODUCING

Travel First Class without leaving the ground.

With all the new exciting features of the 2003 Chevrolet Venture LT, you and your family can enjoy such elegant driving experience. This spruced up-model comes with beige interior, wood center console, roof rails, and backing sensors. What's more, you also get the built-in VCD entertainment system. Visit your nearest GM dealer, NOW!

CHEVROLET.
2003 VENTURE LT

See the 2003 Chevrolet Venture LT at
www.generalmotors.com.ph

GM AutoWorld showrooms are open 7 days a week.

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2296 Don Chino Roces Ave.,
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Tel. Nos.: 867-8183 to 87 / 817-8056

GM AutoWorld QUEZON AVENUE
1231 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 374-1250 to 59 / 413-8133
372-8001, 415-8878
Fax No.: 372-8008

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500 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.: 535-4944 / 535-4938
533-1263
Fax No.: 535-4937 / 535-4935

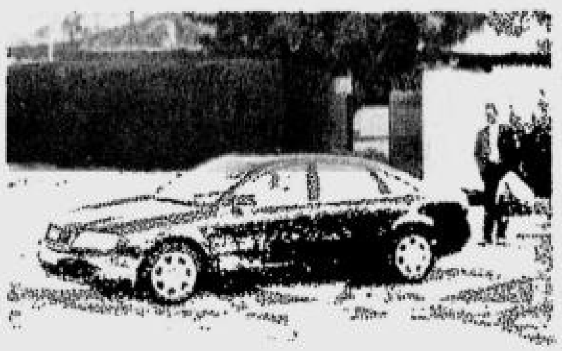
GM AutoWorld PAMPANGA
MacArthur Highway, Dolores,
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos.: (045) 961-2002, (045) 860-2000
Tel/Fax No.: (045) 961-2003

GM AutoWorld CEBU
Gov. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City
Tel. No.: (32) 234-0426
Fax No.: (32) 231-7760

GM AutoWorld

Photo may vary.

Audi offers best financing plan



IT'S quite a rare treat when you come across a financial deal that practically offers you a slew of attractive options all going for you. Auto Prominence Corp., the exclusive distributor of Audi in the Philippines, offers the best financing plan among the European luxury cars.

Audi has the longest term for 0-percent interest for up to 48 months. For those who prefer a low monthly installment, one can pay as low as P18,687/month for an Audi A4. For others who may want a better option, you can pay down payments for as low as 20 percent.

Audi has three models, and one can be sure that regardless of the choice, an Audi will always suit one's expectations. The Audi A4 is a testament to Audi's ability to blend practicality with style and outstanding performance. The Audi A6 is a supreme example of Audi's visionary leadership in design and engineering innovation. It combines the luxury of a saloon with the visual appeal of a coupe. Its practical technical features are just as tempting as its sensual outlines. Its style is individual and unmistakable. It has bigger legroom and a trunk that can fit in three golf bags.

Throughout the development of the Audi TT, it has remained a designer's vision, untouched by the constraints of the market and brand. It embodies an unconventional, purist character with its sensual lines and powerful proportions. It is a bold statement of individuality and freedom.

All Audi models are excellent cars with leading German technological advancements that enhance every aspect of luxury driving experience: safety, comfort, and environmental responsibility.

To best appreciate the exceptional features of Audi and these best financing offers, visit Auto Prominence at 2326 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City or call 843-1640/843-1649/843-3652. The Audi Showroom is open Mondays to Sundays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Promo ends Feb. 28.

Nissan awards best dealers

MANTRADE Development Corp. (MDC) and Nissan Iloilo shared top honors at the Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) Dealer Awards Night. The awarding ceremony culminated the 2003 NMPI Dealer Conference held Feb. 26 at Palm Springs Country Club in Alabang.

Nissan Mantrade bagged the 2002 Dealer of the Year, Top Dealer in Sales Volume and Best Dealer in Sales Operation awards for Metro Manila, besting some 9 other Manila-based dealers.

Nissan Iloilo took the 2002 Dealer of the Year, Best in Sales Operation and Best in Customer Satisfaction for provincial dealers. Nissan Commonwealth won Best Dealer in Parts Operation and Customer Satisfaction for Metro Manila. Nissan Gallery Ortigas took the Best Dealer in Service Operations for Metro Manila, the same award given to Nissan Cebu distributors in the provincial category. Royce Motors won the 2002 Best Dealer in Parts Operation for provincial dealers.

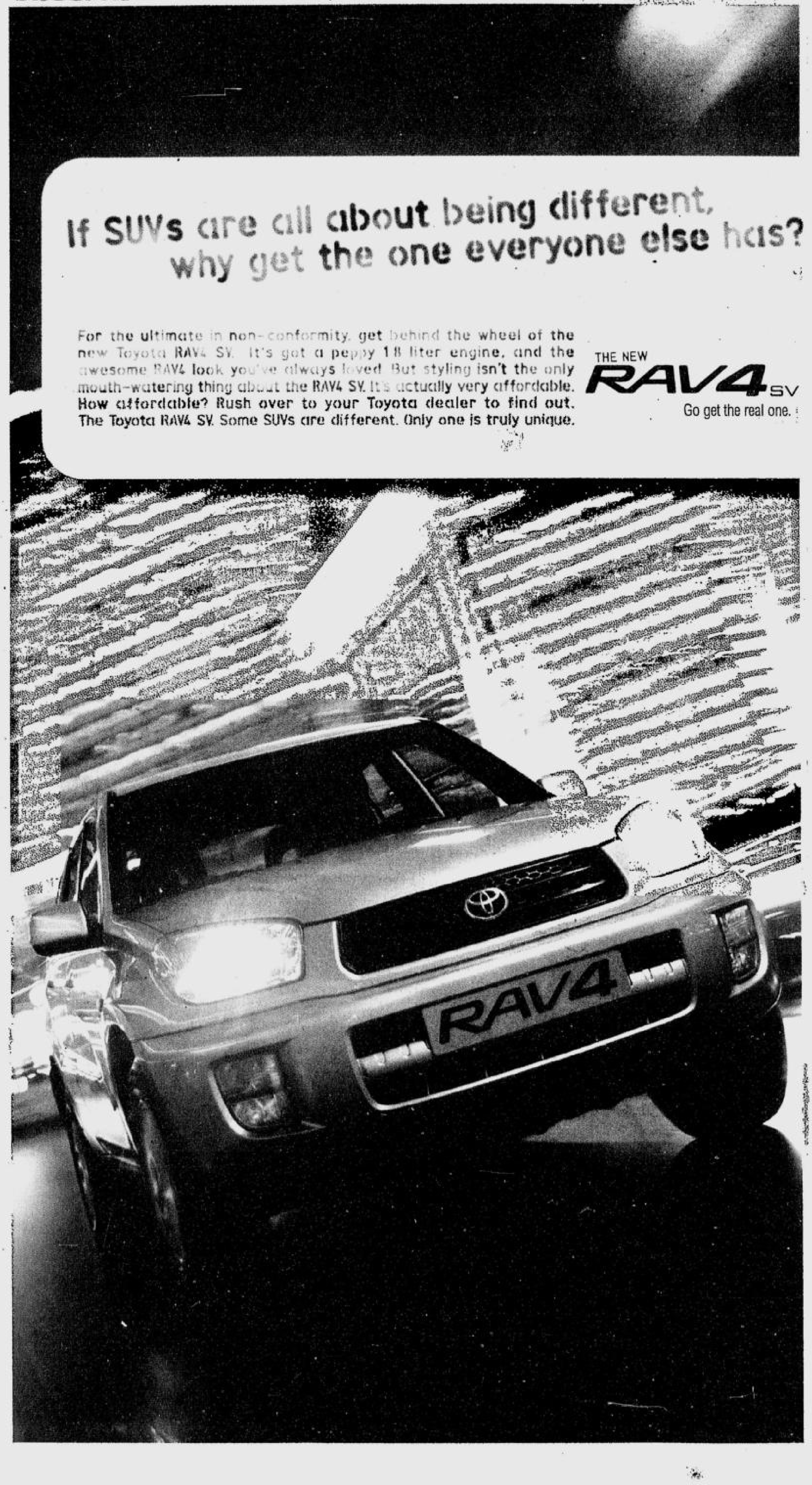
During his speech, NMPI president Jack Wu said that the awards was more than a just a token of recognition.

"More than simply recognizing performance, we are here to learn from each other and map out a better future for all." At the same time, Wu acknowledged the efforts of the dealer network in achieving network targets consistent with improving the Nissan brand in the Philippines.

Kurt Bachman, president of Mantrade Development Corp., a consistent award winner, including Dealer of the Year for several years in a row, challenged the crowd, saying "we at Mantrade hope that next year more dealers will be able to share these awards with us."

"The Dealer of the Year Awards were designed to motivate dealers to continuously improve on customer satisfaction enhanced service quality, strict adherence to business standards and practices," remarks VP for marketing and sales Virgilio Diwa. "But we are doing this not only to enhance our network but also to provide more value to our customers."

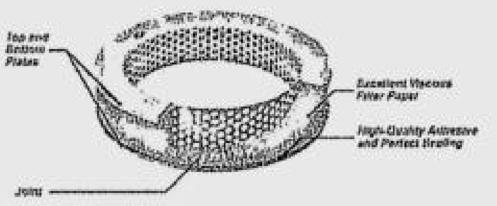
Special guests at the NMPI 2003 Dealer's Conference were Toshiaki Tauchi, manager for Asia sales department of the general overseas market sales division of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., Japan and Yulon Motor Co. representative Leman Lee. Over 100 guests representing the 20-strong Nissan dealer network were present at the affair, which was highlighted by a consultative product clinic conducted by Wu. NMPI NewService.



Passion
TOYOTA
If SUVs are all about being different, why get the one everyone else has?
For the ultimate in non-conformity, get behind the wheel of the new Toyota RAV4 SV. It's got a peppy 1.8 liter engine, and the awesome RAV4 look you've always loved. But styling isn't the only mouth-watering thing about the RAV4 SV. It's actually very affordable. How affordable? Rush over to your Toyota dealer to find out. The Toyota RAV4 SV. Some SUVs are different. Only one is truly unique.
THE NEW RAV4 SV
Go get the real one.

Genuine parts ensure long engine life

THE ENGINE is the heart and soul of any vehicle. Effective care must be taken to prolong its life. For an engine to operate properly, an immense amount of air is required. Air must be allowed to flow smoothly into the engine, free from dust and other foreign matter potentially harmful to it. Dust particles in the air are harmful to engines because they decrease carburetor and EGI efficiency. It also damages various engine parts, such as intake/exhaust valves, pistons, cylinders and bearings.


Top and Bottom Plates
Excellent Viscous Filter Paper
High-Quality Adhesive and Perfect Sealing
Joint

Air filters act as barricades by removing the dust from the air without obstructing the air flow and muffles air intake noise. Effective filtering of the air results to higher fuel economy with the efficient combustion of air fuel mixture. There is sustained air intake compression pressure and engine power to ensure instantaneous and rapid vehicle acceleration. Exhaust gas emissions are cleaner, and lastly, it results to a reduction in the wear and tear of the engine.

Genuine Nissan Air Filters, designed especially for your Nissan, feature high-filtration efficiency, long service life, and no air leakage. Genuine Nissan Air Filters do not require cleaning because its paper has been specially treated. Quality means performance and savings. Use only genuine Nissan parts, distributed by Universal Motors Corp.

Toyota motorsports activities bared

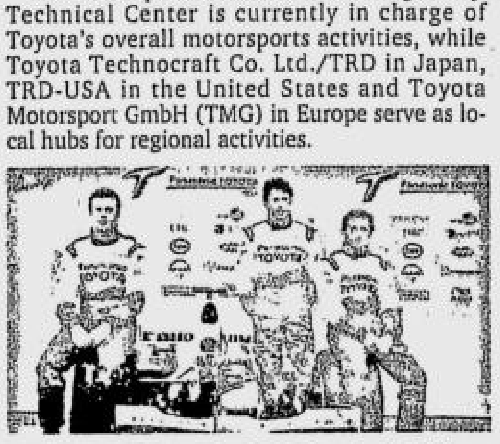
TOYOTA Motor Corp. (TMC), under the banner of "The Challenge of Aiming for the Top", announced recently its motorsports plans for 2003, which place competing in the top racing categories of the FIA Formula One World Championship (F1), the IRL (Indy Racing League) IndyCar Series and the All Japan GT Championship (JGTC) as its three main pillars. TMC also plans to continue cultivating top drivers for the future and carrying out activities that serve to support the foundations of motorsports.

For F1, TMC has designated its second year as the "Year of Challenge" and is set take on the competition with the Toyota TF103—featuring the new RVX-03 engine, a new seven-speed gearbox and evolutionary advances in aerodynamic performance—and new drivers Oliver Panis and Cristiano da Matta. To mark its inaugural challenge in the IRL IndyCar Series, TMC, through TRD, USA Inc. (TRD-USA), will provide the Toyota Indy RV8I, a newly developed 3.5-liter normally aspirated V8 engine, to 10 cars among five teams, aiming for victory at Indy Japan (Motegi) and the legendary Indy 500. In the All Japan GT Championship Series, TMC will strive for both the driver's and team titles by introducing to competing Supras a new 5.2L normally aspirated V8 engine—based on the 4.3-liter V8 engine (3UZ-FE) available on the Celsior and other commercially sold models.

TMC is also actively identifying new talent and providing drivers with training and experience both at home and in Europe through its Toyota Driver Development Program, which was put in place to continually cultivate top drivers over the long term.

To further support the foundations of motorsports, Toyota will contribute by sponsoring one-make races in Japan including the Esso Formula Toyota Series and Netz Cup races (Vitz Series and Altezza Series). Toyota will continue its active contributions, including support for the CART Toyota Atlantic Series in the United States and the Yaris Cup in Europe.

The Motorsports Division of TMC's Higashifuji Technical Center is currently in charge of Toyota's overall motorsports activities, while Toyota Technocraft Co. Ltd./TRD in Japan, TRD-USA in the United States and Toyota Motorsport GmbH (TMG) in Europe serve as local hubs for regional activities.



TOYOTA F1 drivers for 2003, from left, Olivier Panis, Ricardo Zonta (test driver) and Cristiano da Matta.

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IMAGE EVALUATION
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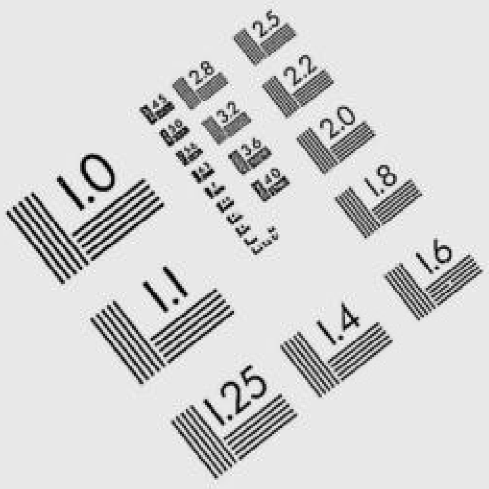
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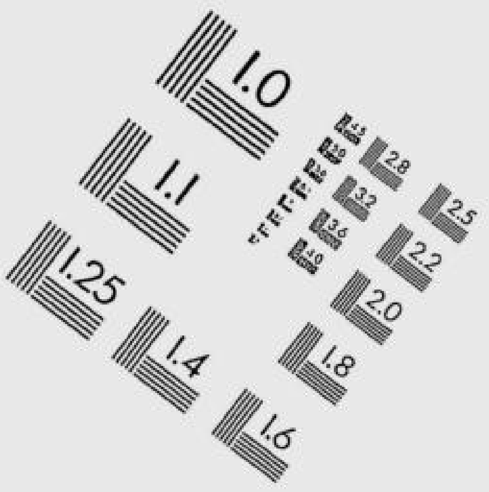
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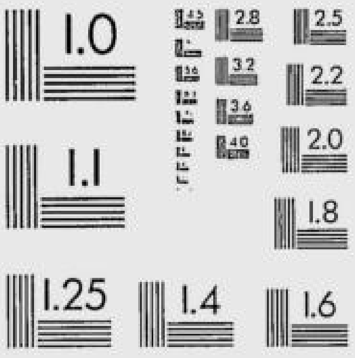
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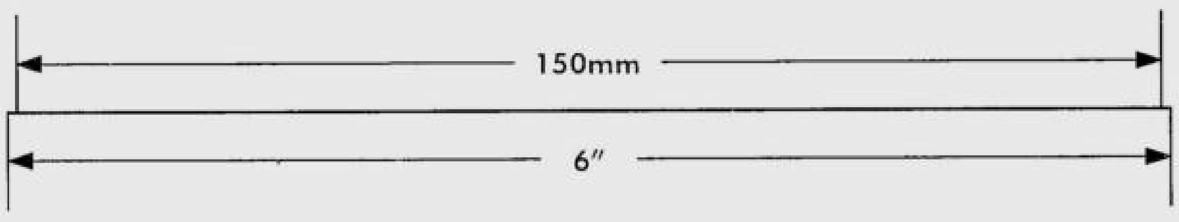

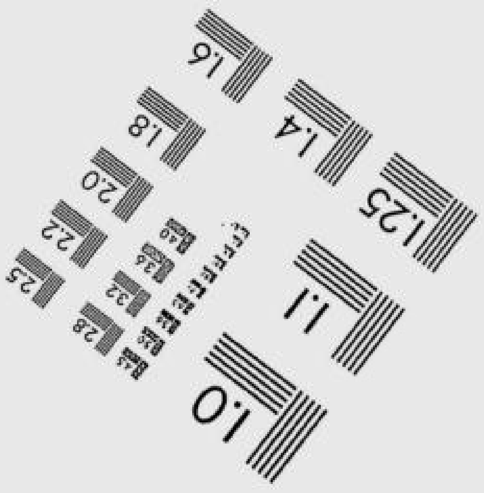
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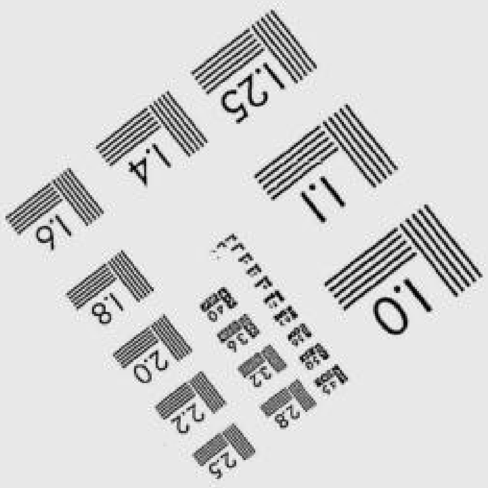
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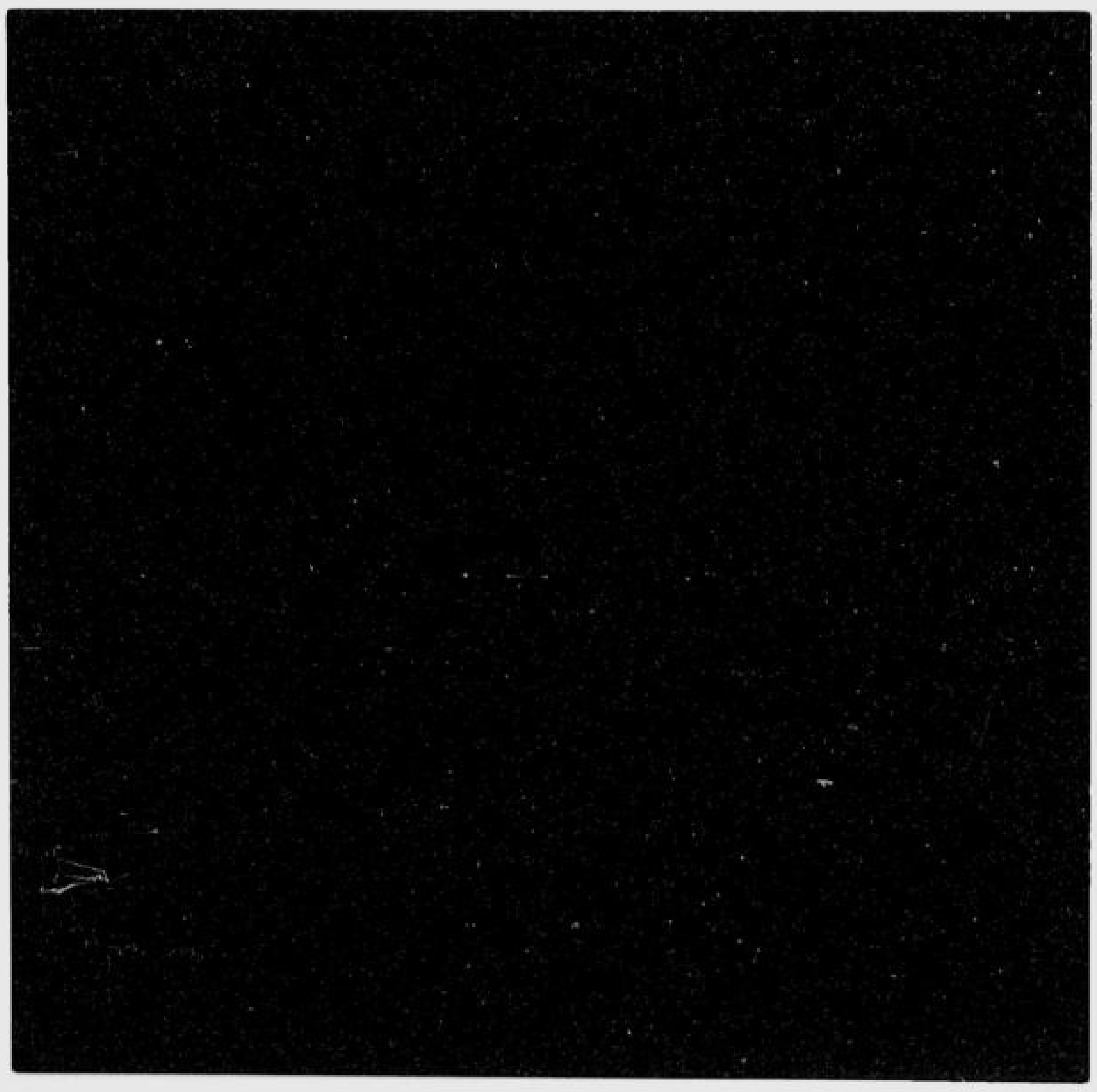

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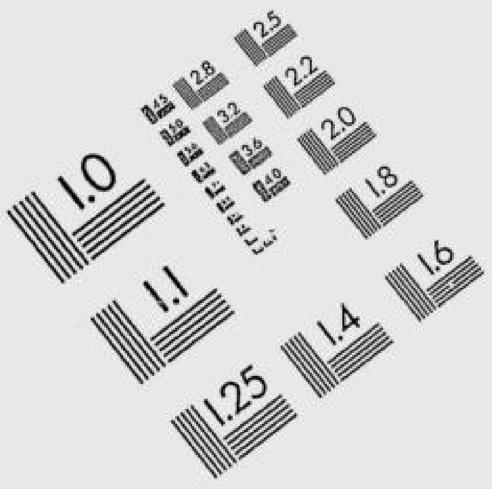
METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

JANUARY
1 THRU 15
2003

REEL 300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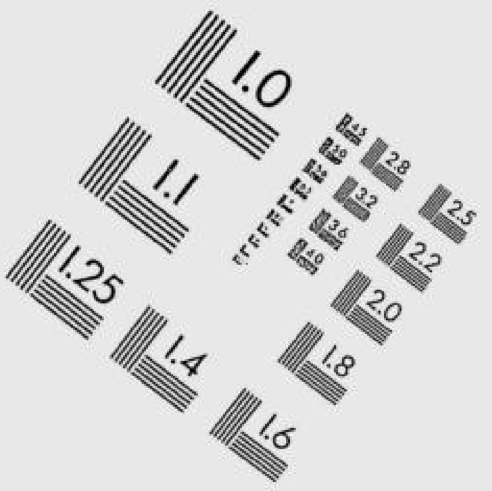
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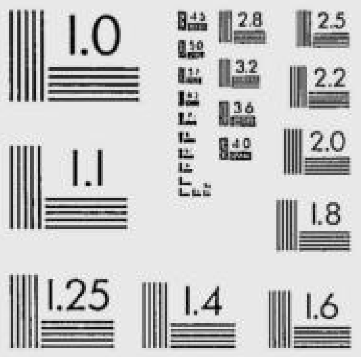
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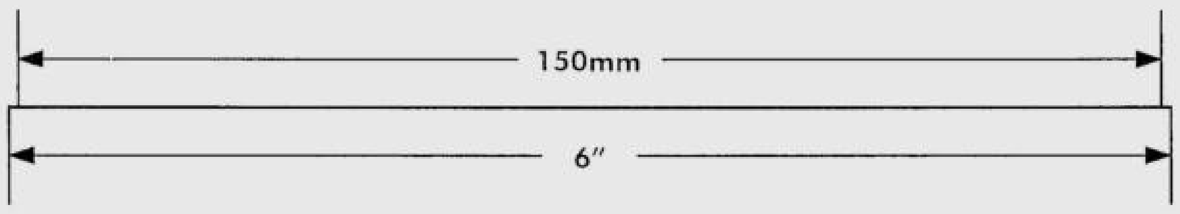

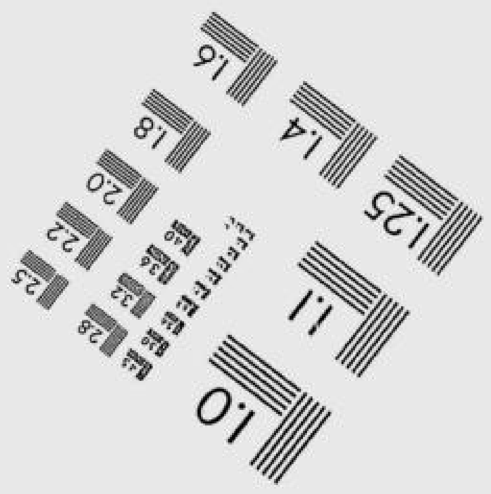
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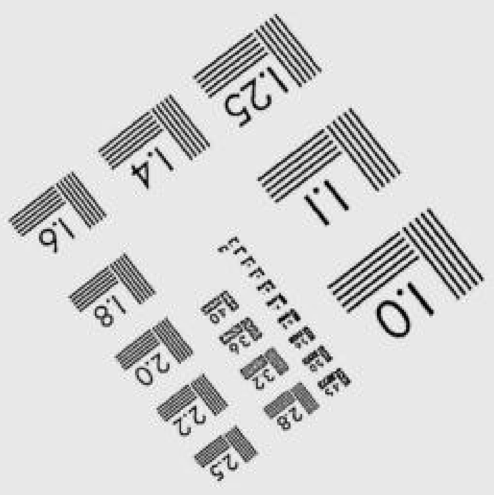
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